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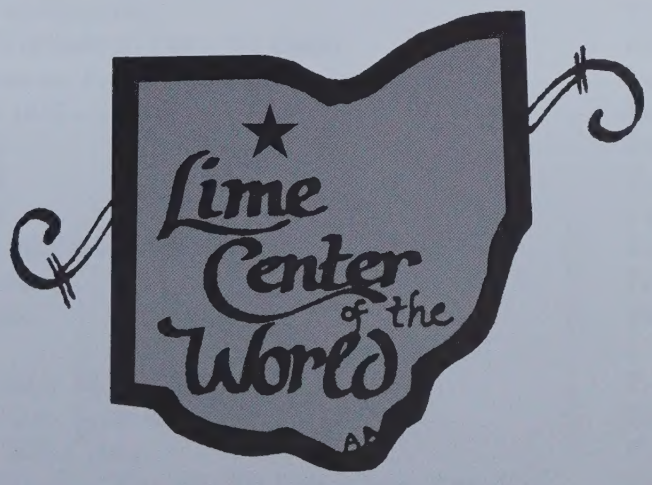

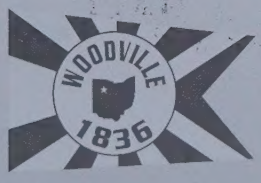

WOODVILLE

FOUNDED 1836

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The State of Ohio observes 200 years of statehood in 2003 and there will be much emphasis on history and reflection on the past. The Woodville Historical Society is also looking back to our past with the publication of this book about Woodville and Woodville Township.

The book is not a complete history but a compilation of information gathered from many sources. Also, different sources and memories are not always in complete agreement on the same subject. For such discrepancies, we beg the indulgence of the reader.

To better understand our beginnings, we have reached back in time to ancient days and touched on the early settlement of Northwest Ohio and specifically Sandusky County. Because of our location in the heart of the Black Swamp, our area did not develop as early as other areas of Ohio.

Sandusky County was established in 1820 and there were several different alignments of the townships, it was not until 1840 that the present township alignments came into being. The Town of Woodville considers its beginning as 1836 when the first plat of the town was officially filed.

The Woodville Historical Society, as part of the Woodville's Sesquicentennial in 1986, published a Sketch Book about the town. Much has happened in the past seventeen years, and yet many things have not changed at all; and maybe that is the essence of small towns.

The first settlers were mostly from the eastern seaboard states; however, in the mid-1830's the German farmers started to arrive. Work and opportunity is what brought diversity to Woodville. The lime plants needed workers and stoneworkers came from Italy, Greece and other southern European countries. Also, people from the Deep South came to work in the plants, and others followed who opened businesses to serve the changing population.

Many sources have been used for the information in this book, many questions asked, and memories gathered. Sources used:

Historical Atlas of Sandusky County – 1874 and 1898
History of Sandusky County – Homer Everett - 1882
Commemorative Biographical Record Sandusky & Ottawa Co. – J. H. Beers – 1896
20th Century History of Sandusky County – Basil Meek – 1909
A History of Northwest Ohio – Nevin O. Winter – 1917
Maumee Valley, Toledo and the Sandusky Region – C. S. VanTassel – 1929
The Maumee & Western Reserve Turnpike – Thaddeus B. Hurd – 1967
The Indians of Sandusky County – Glen J. Giffen – 1968
Elmore, Ohio – A History Preserved – Grace Luebke – 1975
A Sketch Book of Woodville – Woodville Historical Society – 1986
Indian Cultures of the Woodville Area – Richard Meyer – local Collector of Indian Artifacts – 1986
1860 Sandusky County Landowners Atlas – Sandusky County Kin-Hunters – 1990
A History of Solomon Lutheran Church - 1991
Woodville News, Pemberville Leader, Woodville Limestone, The News-Messenger, Toledo Blade

Information in the book, as well as much more not included, is archived at the Historical Society Museum located on Main Street next to the Library in Woodville. We hope that you will enjoy this book as a kind of historical treasure of our beginnings. We know that there are discrepancies and errors. Please contact the Historical Society about discrepancies so the archived information can be corrected. We also know that many, many good stories have not been told. Contact us and we'll archive the information; better yet……visit the Museum and see what wonderful items have been collected.

EARLY HISTORICAL EVENTS

1803 March 1st – Ohio becomes 17th State to enter the Union.

1815 Huron County organized – Lower Sandusky Township formed.

1820 Sandusky County established.

1823 February 28th – Act of Congress authorizing State of Ohio to construct Maumee and Western Reserve Road.

1825 First road – a mud path through wilderness.
First clearing on present site of Woodville.

1826 First cabin occupied by Thomas and Harriet Miller.
First recorded land records.

1827 Maumee and Western Reserve Road completed – a log road.

1831 Five families living in the rural Woodville area.
First mail service to Post Office at Sugar Creek.

1832 Ephraim Wood, Jr. and G. H. Price purchase land.

1833 First frame house in town is built.
First Lutherans arrive in the area.

1835 First grist mill in operation.
First doctor – Dr. Tucker practiced in Woodville area for one year.

1836 June 13th – 1st platting for the Town of Woodville by Amos E. Wood & George H. Price.
First log schoolhouse is erected.
First recorded burial in Woodville area – Collins Cemetery (Sugar Creek) – Mrs. C. B. Collins.
Dr. A. R. Ferguson succeeds Dr. Tucker.

1837 Legislature authorizes upgrade to Maumee and Western Turnpike.

1838 Second platting of Woodville by Amos Pratt and Daniel Hubbell – not filed until 1843.
Legislature votes $40,000 to upgrade the Turnpike.

1839 Three houses in the Town of Woodville.

1840 April 1st – Woodville Township organized and Ottawa County is established.
Sept. 19th - German Evangelical Lutheran Reform Church purchases Lot #31 from Amos E. Wood.

1840-41 Maumee and Western Turnpike improvements completed – now a stone road.

1841 Solomon Lutheran Church founded when The Rev. Cronenwett became the first pastor.

1843 Lutheran Church at southwest corner of College and Perry Streets is dedicated.
German Methodist Church is built in triangle at Bridge, Water and First Street.

1844 Methodist-Episcopal Church organized – meet in old schoolhouse.

1846 First burial in Woodville Township Cemetery – 3 year-old Stephen Brown.

1851 Roman Catholics convert a dwelling into their first church, had been meeting since 1843 in various homes.

1854 First burial in Catholic Cemetery – Byron Fay – native of Ireland.

1857 United Brethren Church is organized.

1859 Methodists, Presbyterians and Evangelicals build the Union Church.

1861 – 1865 THE CIVIL WAR

1865 Special School District formed to govern town school.
Additions are made to the frame schoolhouse building that had been Township #3.

1872 First railroad - rails are laid for the Toledo, Tiffin & Eastern Railroad.
William Basey builds a two-kiln limeplant.

1878 More additions to the frame schoolhouse.

1880 Woodville Normal and Academy is built. Closes in 1924.

1884 Petition filed August 12th for the Incorporation of the Village of Woodville.

1887 First well in the area drilled near Gibsonburg, looking for natural gas and found oil.

1892 Village Council grants permission for the building of natural gas lines.

1894 November 9th – First publication of a local paper – THE NEWS.

1896 Village Council grants permission for the building of a phone system
Voters approve an electric-light works.
Woodville's First Homecoming – August 1st

1899 – 1939 Toledo, Fremont & Norwalk (TF&N) Electric Railroad service begins which in 1901 becomes the Lake Shore Electric (LSE) Railway.

1905 – 1911 Lake Erie, Bowling Green & Napoleon (LEBG&N) Electric Railroad service.

1917 – 1918 United States enters WORLD WAR I.

1917 Woodville Centralized School District is formed – the end of Township School Board.

1920 American Legion Post #455 forms.

1928 Organization of Woodville Volunteer Fire Department.

1929 Voters approve water distribution system.

OUR BEGINNINGS – HISTORY of OHIO SANDUSKY COUNTY WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP & WOODVILLE VILLAGE

ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURES

Archaeologists believe that Paleo-Indians, first inhabitants of this area migrated from Asia and arrived in Sandusky County some 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. This migration followed the retreat of the Wisconsin Glacier that caused the formation of the Lake Erie Basin including the area we know as the Black Swamp. These nomadic people were hunters who roamed this land hunting the prehistoric bison, mastodon, caribou and giant beaver which grazed on lush grasslands created by the warming period after the glacier receded. The Paleo-Indian, the earliest man found in America, belonged to the Paleolithic or Stone Age Culture. Indians of this culture used fluted points and chipped stone tools unaltered by rubbing or polishing.

The Archaic Era or Intermediate Stone Age followed and was by far the longest Stone Age era lasting from 7,000 to 1,000 BC. Archaic people were food gatherers living on fish, clams, nuts, berries and game. They lived in small bands moving periodically to take advantage of changing resources. Indians of this culture used a great variety of chipped flint tools, spears and knives, grooved axes and hammer-stones to cope with the conditions of the hardwood forests.

Indians of the Woodland Culture lived in a Neolithic or New Stone Age from about 1000 BC to 1000 AD. This was the first culture to use the bow and arrow. People in this culture were farmers who supplemented their diet of fish and game with maize and other food crops. Turkeys were domesticated and desirable for both their feathers and food. Indians found the land good and remained here for many centuries, building crude shelters along the streams.

MISSISSIPPIAN/LATE WOODLAND CULTURE – 1000 TO 1775

The period known as the Mississippian Culture existed from 1000 AD to the 18th century. This period is sometimes called Late Woodland Culture. Archaeologists divide the Eastern Indians into two groups by language roots. The Algonquin lived alone in the woodlands of present eastern United States until about 1100 AD. The Iroquois migrated from the southwest into what is today New York State. The Iroquois prospered and spread to the west, as well as to the Canadian and American sides of Lake Erie.

Just as man developed elsewhere in the world, these people developed in Ohio. Cultures formed, merged with others, and new cultures were made. One of the most advanced cultures in Ohio was that of the Mound Builders who knew how to weave cloth, work copper and carve hard stone. They are best known for their great earthworks in Southern and Central Ohio. Along the Sandusky River north of present Fremont, early white settlers found earthworks, but all traces have long since been plowed away.

In the 1650s, when French explorers and Jesuit missionaries began to explore the shores of Lake Erie, they named the tribe Hurons who lived on the North shores of Lake Erie and they named the tribe Eries who lived on the South shores of the lake. An historian states that **French Explorer Robert Cavalier was the first white man to set foot in what is now Ohio in 1669 claiming the vast Ohio territory for the French.**

While the country was in control of the French, traders and missionaries frequently traveled by canoe along the south shore of Lake Erie and up the Sandusky and Maumee Rivers. An old map drawn by the Jesuits in 1660 indicates that they were familiar with the location of Sandusky Bay and the Maumee River, and they were without a doubt familiar with the Portage River as well.

The Huron and Erie tribes were at war with their relatives, the Iroquois of the New York country, and this war continued for 100 years. Ancient legend from those days tells of a neutral nation that had a double village in Lower Sandusky (now Fremont). The neutral nation was known as the Wendats or Wyandots and their village on the east

bank of the Sandusky River was at Blue Banks (across the river from Rodger Young Park) and offered sanctuary to anyone coming from the east. The neutral village on the west bank was located on the site of Fort Stephenson where the Birchard Library now stands and offered sanctuary to anyone coming from the west. The people of one of the neutral towns were permitted to inform those of the other town that war parties were there, but anything more as to who they were or where they were from could not be divulged.

The powerful Iroquois had acquired tomahawks, arrow points, knives and muskets from trading with the Dutch in New York and with these superior weapons had nearly exterminated the Huron and Erie tribes whose remnants fled west in 1654. The Iroquois then returned to the New York State area leaving the present day Ohio a no-man's land for almost a hundred years.

The Huron Chief Nicholas with Wyandot followers established an Indian town of Sandosket on the north side of Sandusky Bay where the portage trail crossed from the Bay to the Portage River. They migrated to Sandusky Bay from Detroit, leaving Detroit because of troubles with the French. The chief threatened to destroy the French and courted the aid of the English. In 1745 Nicholas permitted the Pennsylvania colonists to build a blockhouse and trading post at this town called Fort Sandoski. **These were the first structures built by white men in present Ohio.**

Chief Nicholas conspired to exterminate the French at Detroit and other lake ports. Word of the conspiracy reached Detroit, and ultimately in 1748 the chief and his followers were ordered to leave the area. Prior to leaving for Indiana, he destroyed his village and the fort.

The British returned in 1750 and rebuilt the fort. The next year the French usurped the fort and the British fled. In 1754 the French built Fort Junandat (near present day Venice) on the south shore of Sandusky Bay, and they abandoned Fort Sandoski.

After the surrender of Quebec, and the end of French sovereignty in America, the British returned to the area in 1761 and rebuilt Fort Sandusky. Only a few years later in 1763 the fort was destroyed and the English garrison murdered in a conspiracy lead by Ottawa Chief Pontiac.

From their first discovery French and English traders plied their canoes up and down the Sandusky and Maumee Rivers. The Indians loved the woods and the waterways. This has been a coveted area, two nations waged bitter contests in our area, and the struggle for possession resulted in many bloody battles.

The Ohio Company of Virginia was organized in 1747 with the goal of colonizing the Ohio River Valley. Forty-one years later the first settlers arrived in Marietta, Ohio.

During the hundred-year period from the 1650 to 1750 the Colonists in the east were forcing the eastern Indian tribes westward. About 1750 the remnants of the Huron and Erie nations who had fled west returned to Ohio. They united and took on the old tribal name of the neutral Wendats (later called Wyandots by the white settlers). They prospered and grew powerful once again claiming land on the south shore of Lake Erie. They chose the Sandusky River valley in the area of present day Fremont as the site of their main village. Other village sites existed from Blue Banks to the Sandusky Bay.

The French had outposts in Ohio, but did not try to settle the land and only traded for furs. Because of the commerce with the French, the Indians helped them against the British and colonists in the French & Indian Wars of 1754-1763. Imagine the Indians' confusion when at the end of this war, they were told by the French that they had surrendered all the land to the British.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1775 –1783

At the time of the Revolutionary War there were settlers who had moved west of the Allegheny Mountains; however, Indian raiders drove them back to the east side of the mountains.

In 1778 George Rogers Clark led an expedition to the western frontier and attacked British outposts. This expedition into the new lands, driving out the British, helped the United States obtain the Northwest Territory.

THE WYANDOT INDIANS

The Wyandot Indians of this area built permanent living quarters that were called long houses and were shared by several families. These houses were pole frames covered with elm bark. Bunk beds were constructed along the walls and the center was used for cooking, ceremonies and council fires. Their summer camps were usually elm bark wigwams. Animal bones along the Sandusky River show that they hunted deer, bear, wildcat and a great many raccoons and woodchucks.

The Black Swamp lands and the sand ridges of the Clyde area were favorite hunting lands of the tribe. Most of present day Clyde was covered with a vast grove of maple trees and the Indians came in the spring to make maple syrup. They liked it poured over popcorn. Another great delicacy was stewed raccoon dipped in maple syrup.

The Wyandots were friends and allies of the Algonquin-Ottawa tribe of Michigan and used some of their customs including birch bark canoes made from the birch trees of the North Country. Such canoes were very light and portable. The Iroquois made their canoes of elm bark and they were not as maneuverable.

Indian warriors could cover incredible distances in a short time and lived on a trail diet. This consisted of jerky (dried deer meat), parched corn, and pemmican that was a mixture of deer fat, bone marrow, and dried berries.

During the Revolutionary War, a Captain Samuel Brady was sent here by General Washington to assess the strength of the tribes. Brady approached under the cover of night and hid on an island in the river near the Indian village of Lower Sandusky. He witnessed a series of horse races. Several horses had been captured in a raid in Kentucky.

About the year 1780 a party of Negroes was captured in Virginia and brought to the Sandusky River by the Indians where they were held as slaves. They were placed in charge of a peninsular tract of land about four miles down river from Lower Sandusky. The squaws were very happy to have help with the farm labor. On early maps this area was designated "Nigger Bend" or sometimes more politely called "Negro Point".

Life of the Indian could then be compared to the lifestyles of more modern groups. They had a variety of transportation, special canoes for different situations; a special diet for athletes; horse races; and even kept slaves!

Artifacts from all the previously mentioned cultures have been found in the Woodville area and each culture had its own particular type of weapon and tool that makes identification possible. Specimens of each period are on display in the Woodville Historical Museum.

THE WHITAKERS – 1780
THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

Some historians believe that the first white settlers in what is today Sandusky County were James and Elizabeth Whitaker. James Whitaker was born in England in 1756 and settled in Pennsylvania near Fort Pitt. Historian Homer Everett interviewed Mrs. Scranton, who was a daughter of the Whitakers, and this is the story she related about her parents' life in the wilderness.

"About 1780 Quill and James Whitaker and another young man left Fort Pitt on a hunting expedition. They were ambushed by a band of painted Wyandots. Quill Whitaker escaped, the young man was killed, and James Whitaker had his arm shattered and was captured. The Indians and their captive traveled several days, reaching an area that is today Richland County. Here he was to run the gauntlet. He showed great bravery and was to run the gauntlet once again when an elderly squaw walked forward and took from her own shoulders a blanket which she cast over the panting young prisoner declaring, 'This is my son; he is one of us, you must not kill him'. Thus he was adopted by the Wyandots and lived with the Indians returning to an area on the Sandusky River.

"About two years after the capture of James Whitaker, another party of warriors captured Elizabeth Foulks at Cross Roads, Pennsylvania. She was eleven years old and was carried to captivity and adopted into a family of the tribe.

"Both young captives adopted the manners and customs of the Indian family. A few years later at a general council of their tribes, these two

adopted children of the forest made each other's acquaintance. A marriage according to the customs of civilized life was arranged and the couple set off for Detroit where Christian ritual was pronounced which made them man and wife.

"The Wyandots were well pleased with their captive children and gave them a choice tract of farming land in the river bottom. Mr. & Mrs. Whitaker reared a family of eight children and expended considerable sums of money on education. They hired a teacher who came to their home to instruct their children. Their oldest daughter was sent to Scotland to be educated.

"Whitaker established a store at his home near Fort Stephenson, another store at Tymochtee and another store at Upper Sandusky. He was a very successful man and accumulated wealth rapidly.

"His death came from poison in wine which was given to him by his business partner at Upper Sandusky who had forged documents and was in debt to Whitaker. James Whitkaer died in 1804 in his 48th year."

Many years later in 1817 the government granted to Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker, because she had been taken prisoner by the Wyandots and had ever since lived among them, 1280 acres of land on the west side of the Sandusky River. A deed restriction was that she could not convey the land to others without presidential permission. President Monroe granted her permission to sell the land to her son. The entire tract was conveyed to son George Whitaker for the sum of $1,200. The Whitaker Reservation appears on early maps of Sandusky Township located about two miles north of present day Fremont (the Peninsular Farms area).

AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR – 1784 TO 1795

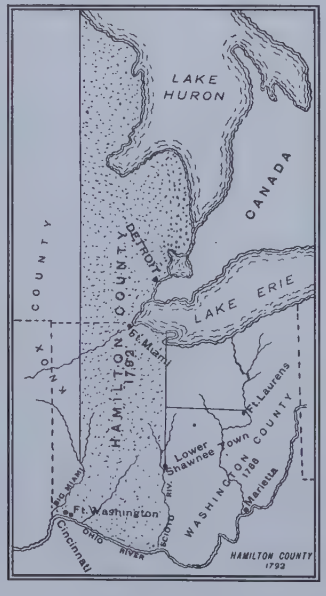
In 1787 land was officially sold by the United States Government through The Ohio Company acting as Agent and the settlers were now "landowners", no longer squatters. The first permanent white settlement in the Northwest Territory and what is today the State of Ohio was in 1788 by a group of New Englanders who had fought in the American Revolution and settled at Marietta, Ohio. The early settlers were mostly of English ancestry and came from the older eastern seaboard states. Also in 1788, a group from New Jersey established a settlement near Cincinnati.

The Northwest Territory established in 1787 included the present states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Northwest Ordinance was passed by Congress July 13, 1787, which provided for the government for this new territory located north of the Ohio River and west of Pennsylvania. This legislation was a model for territorial governments and included the following provisions:

1.) Congress appointed a governor, secretary and three judges to govern the new territory.
2.) When a territory or any division of it had 5,000 adult males, the territory could choose a legislator and send the delegate to Congress; however, without a vote.
3.) When the population reached 60,000 people, the territory could apply for statehood with full equality.

It was also stated that a rectangular survey should be made establishing six-mile square townships. The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery, included the right to trial by jury, freedom of religion, and called for the fair treatment of Indians.

The territory was soon colonized. The following map of Hamilton County dated 1792 includes land reaching northward all the way to Lake Huron. Our area was part of this huge jurisdiction.



Following the Revolution, the British still lingered at outposts in the western country and encouraged Indian raids on the early Kentucky settlers. The Indians raided Ohio's first settlement at Marietta in 1788. The British offered the Indians $100 gold for each captive. Most captives were taken to Detroit via the Scioto-Sandusky trail that passed through the Wyandot villages of Lower Sandusky. Among the captives who passed through Sandusky County were Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton.

Historians name the following as the tribes living in Ohio at this time: Wyandot, Shawnee, Delaware, Ottawa and Miami.

THE TREATY OF GREENVILLE

The Wyandots tried to remain neutral in the Indian struggles with the white settlers, but were eventually drawn in and shared in the defeat at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1795.

Following the battle, one of the most important of all Indian treaties was agreed upon. After two months of negotiation between General Anthony Wayne and Indian chiefs representing twelve tribes, the Treaty of Greenville was signed on August 3, 1795. Twelve tribes were represented and the total number of Indians present were 1,130. Eighty-eight chiefs signed the treaty together with General Wayne's staff and his interpreters and spies. Two of the most celebrated chiefs were Tarhee, a Wyandot, and Little Turtle of the Miami Tribe. These two Indian chiefs impressed the whites with their statesmanlike qualities and were men of real character. Tarhee was one of the first chiefs to recognize the necessity of yielding to the United States and abandoning English alliances. Little Turtle was chief spokesman for the Indians and in gaining his allegiance to the Treaty, General Wayne's contest was won.

The Treaty of Greenville recognized the Indians as the rightful owners of the soil. Therefore it was only by treaty or purchase that the United States Government could honorably obtain title to this vast domain.

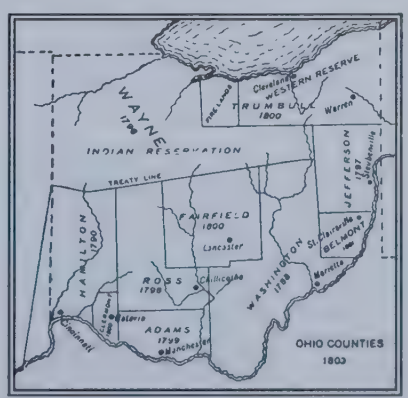
The Treaty of Greenville set boundaries between the United States and Indian lands north of the Ohio River. The area from the Cuyahoga River westward including the Northern half of what is today the State of Ohio and all of Southern Michigan was to be known as the Wayne Indian Territory. Sandusky County was in Indian Territory.

As part of the Treaty of Greenville the Indians granted to the federal government a tract of land two miles square at the first rapids of the Sandusky River. This land was for military use and **Fort Sandusky** (later to be known as Fort Stephenson) was built at the location where Fremont's Birchard Library now stands. This would be the first United States Government soil in Sandusky County.

A map dated 1796 shows our area being part of Wayne County which included all of present day Northwest Ohio and lower Michigan.

OHIO – 17th State to Enter the Union March 1, 1803

Ohio was the first state to be carved from the Northwest Territory. The map below shows how Ohio appeared when the state was formed.



A treaty with the Indians made at Detroit in 1807 by Michigan's Governor affected the upper reaches of the Maumee River to the mouth of the Auglaize River (in the city of Defiance). Even at this early date in Ohio history, the importance of the Maumee River was recognized. The area at the mouth of the Maumee (today Toledo) gave the most promise of all locations in the wilderness of Northwestern Ohio.

THE BROWNSTOWN TREATY – 1808

As the settlers began to establish themselves, the matter of roads became a problem between Ohio and the lake region. It was at the Treaty of Brownstown, held in Michigan Territory on November 5, 1808, that the basis for the building of the Maumee and Western Reserve Road was agreed upon. The road was to be 120 feet wide from the Foot of the Maumee Rapids (now Perrysburg) and pass through what is now Woodville, and through to present day Fremont, and to the west line of the Connecticut Western Reserve (east end of present day Sandusky County). The Indians agreed that a strip one mile wide on each side of said roadway was ceded to the United States Government.

This route is nearly on the same course as one of the old trails used by the French and afterwards by the English in expeditions between Detroit and areas in eastern Ohio. The trail kept to higher ground, thus often deviating from the straight course of the newly agreed upon Maumee and Western Reserve Road.

The early highway opened communication from Detroit to the developing settlements of the Firelands and eastward into the Connecticut Reserve. It became a connecting link for eastern emigration to southern Michigan and northern Indiana. The roadway would open development in the wilderness.

The region to the east of Sandusky County known as the Firelands was land given to the citizens of Connecticut as compensation for damages they had sustained by reason of property destroyed by British raids. The Firelands was an area of 500,000 acres at the western end of the Western Reserve. Settlement started in the Firelands area about 1808.

Delaware County was formed in 1808. In April 1811 the County Commissioners of Delaware County took action to recognize the petition of the white inhabitants of Radnor Township, that all that part of the country commonly known by name of Upper and Lower Sandusky shall be and now is attached to **Radnor Township of Delaware County.** Hence, our area was once part of Delaware County.

THE WAR OF 1812 – 1814

The United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812. Americans captured York (Toronto) on the northern shores of Lake Ontario. The British invaded Washington and burned the capitol building and the White House.

Fort Meigs at the foot of the rapids along the Maumee River in Perrysburg was built by General William Henry Harrison in 1813 as a bulwark against the further encroachment of the British into the Northwest Territory.

Also, in 1813 the fort at Lower Sandusky was reinforced and became known as Fort Stephenson. Both forts were the sites of battles and skirmishes during the war with the British.

From January 21st through February 1st in 1813 General Harrison established a temporary camp of nearly 1700 troops on the Middle Branch of the Portage River near present day Pemberville not far below the junction of the two branches. (Harrison Park is on South Bierley Avenue). A private in the ranks wrote in his diary about the weather changes. He wrote:

"The rains came and were extreme and most disagreeable, and the water in the river raised so suddenly that the men were obliged to cut down trees along the banks and pitch their tents upon the logs and brush to keep them out of the water. Within a short time the weather turned suddenly cold and ice formed of sufficient strength to bear up the ox teams and also afford the army men the sport of skating.

"Then when the General was to launch his campaign and move troops, the weather changed once again and the thaw prevented troop movement."

Such were conditions in and near the Black Swamp. The area between present-day Hessville and Stony Ridge was the very worst area and nearly impenetrable. The few Indian trails that did exist became impassable during the wet season, it being scarcely possible to traverse them with or without a horse.

There was some troop movement from Fort Meigs to Fort Stephenson; however, most likely using higher ground to the west near Pemberville and to the east nearer to Elmore. Our immediate area remained a wilderness of trees, underbrush and black muck, water and mosquitoes.

The Battle of Lake Erie near the Bass Islands was a decisive victory for the United States. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's naval victory over the British opened the way for further land victories over the British and Indians and broke their power in the Northwest Territory.

A peace treaty was signed at Ghent in the European country of Belgium on December 24, 1815. News did not travel quickly in the early 1800s. When the Battle of New Orleans was fought on January 8th, news of the peace agreement had not been received. Real independence followed the War of 1812 and after the threats of Indian warfare were halted, the state experienced rapid growth. About 1815, settlers began to arrive and small villages soon grew up around Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson.

1815 – 1817

Huron County was organized on January 31, 1815, with Avery as the county seat. The seat of justice was changed to Norwalk in 1818. At the first meeting of the Huron County Commissioners they formed **Lower Sandusky Township**. This huge township included all of the present counties of Seneca, Sandusky, Ottawa and parts of Lucas and Erie. The poll book for a state and county election held in October 1815 lists 23 electors. A poll book from October 1816 lists 33 electors. Another historian states that there were eight homes in Lower Sandusky in 1816. Actually, at this date the new township was still Indian Territory!

The Great Treaty of 1817 was signed at the foot of the rapids on the Maumee River. This treaty was very important in the history of our area and in the opening of Ohio to civilization. The Indians sold most of their lands in northwestern Ohio to the federal government and this sale included nearly all of the already-formed Lower Sandusky Township.

During the War of 1812, most of the Wyandots under Tarhee remained friendly to the Americans; however, other tribes joined the British and Indian leader Tecumseh who fought against the United States. At the Treaty of 1817 this fact was used to place the Indians on reservations. The remnants of a mixed band of Mingos, Senecas, Cayugas and Shawnees were assigned to the so-called Seneca Reservation about ten miles square near Green Springs and part of today's Ballville Township in Sandusky County. Later, the Senecas sold their reservation to the federal government and moved west in 1838.

The Wyandots were given an area of twelve square miles on the Sandusky River at Upper Sandusky in present day Wyandot County. The Wyandots were a fiercely independent people and greatly respected by other Indian tribes who referred to them as "The Elders." They were highly intelligent and quickly accepted the ideas of the white man. They adopted the concept of living in log cabins that were much warmer than wigwams. The white man's methods of farming produced much better crops, so they were also adopted. In 1842 they traded their lands in Ohio for land in Kansas and soon moved west.

The Treaty of 1817 granted a reservation to Mrs. Whitaker (story on Pages 3 and 4). Also in 1817, the federal government platted and put on sale the land of the Two Mile Square Reserve. Land ownership was now legally established. Until now, the inhabitants were technically squatters on federal land.

Map #1 on Page 9 shows Ohio as it was in 1817. At this time our area was **Lower Sandusky Township** attached to Huron County.

1819 – 1834

In May 1819 the Huron County Commissioners split Lower Sandusky Township. Land east of the Sandusky River was called Croghan Township and the land west of the river remained Lower Sandusky Township; however, referred to simply as Sandusky Township.

Sandusky County was established by passage of an act by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio on February 12, 1820. It included within its limits the greater part of present Ottawa County, small portions of Erie and Lucas Counties; and was bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the south by Seneca County, west to Wood County, and east to Huron County. In 1821 the county had five townships: Sandusky, Croghan, Portage, Seneca and Thompson. The newly formed Sandusky County had a population of less than 1000.

Wood County and Seneca County were also established at this time by the same act of the General Assembly. Seneca County was attached to Sandusky County for governmental purposes until 1824 when they set up their own county government.

Map #2 on Page 9 shows Ohio as it was in 1820. Note the shaded area of the Black Swamp.

A more detailed survey and platting of the Sandusky County area was done in 1820 that divided the area into sections.

The earlier emigrants to Sandusky County were mainly people from the East who had temporarily located in the Firelands. Land in Huron County and eastern Sandusky County sold for $2 to $4 per acre; land just as desirable or even better was available on the Sandusky River and the western half of the county at $1.25 per acre. When news of the fertility of the lands reached New York State and other eastern states, the movement westward began by covered wagon and by the lake route. First arrivals selected the hill sections and higher grounds for their homes, as the low lands were then impossible to occupy.

The land may have been cheap, but it was no bargain, as the pioneers soon discovered when they got here. Our area lies in the heart of the Black Swamp. The following is a description of the Black Swamp.....an excerpt from ELMORE, OHIO...A History Preserved by Grace Luebke.

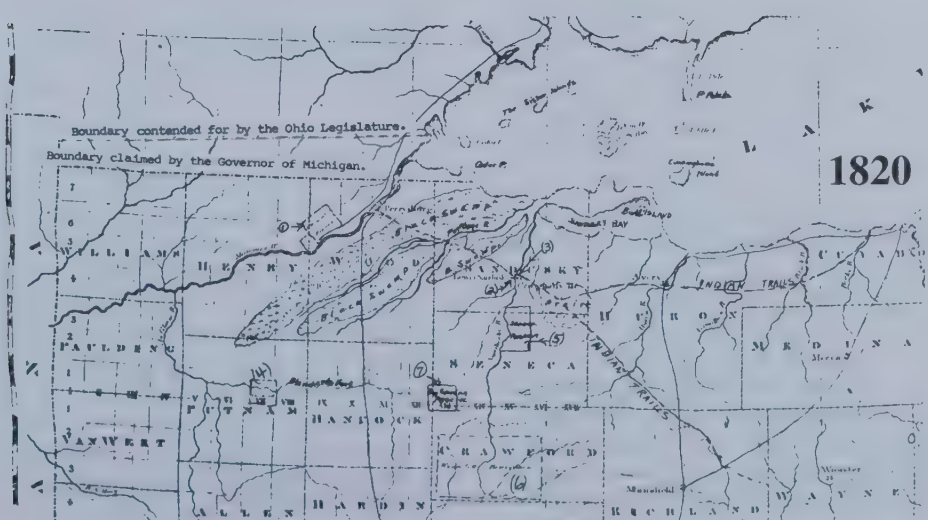
"A map of Ohio, drawn in 1825, shows an immense tract of country stretching westward from the Sandusky River to far beyond the Portage River, by a shade of varying density, and is designated 'Black Swamp': and a black swamp it was ....a wild, desolate, almost uninhabitable waste, the sight of which made strong constitutions wither; and hearts beating high with anticipation, sicken, and fill with melancholy forebodings. Nothing encouraging could be seen. Trees of varying size locked tops and were firmly bound together by vigorous vines, with branches shooting in all directions, fastened to every limb by unyielding tendrils. Carbonic gases emitted from the water-covered muck sixty feet below, fed a luxuriant growth of foliage...which formed a solid canopy, excluding every ray of sunshine. The dismal view caught in the uncertain light of this dense shade banished every idea of settlement. Immense trunks of fallen trees crossing each other in every conceivable direction could just be seen through the thick growth of shrubs, underbrush and course grasses.

"In springtime, the water courses being completely dammed by fallen timber, whole townships were submerged. When dry weather came on, the water slowly found its way to the river and lake, leaving a spongy soil...so thoroughly saturated that even the light-footed deer found travel difficult. The cost of reclaiming this wilderness was beyond calculation.

"Picture a solitary log hut, made of round logs, with a floor and door of rough puncheons; with two small square holes in the sides and closed with sheets of greased paper for windows, the spaces between the logs filled with a mixture of leaves and mud; an immense chimney at one end, built of stocks, through which smoke was forced rather than drawn; covered with thin, irregularly split shingles, weighted down by poles...such a cabin, situated in the midst of wild desolation, was the residence of the first settlers.

"The dreary solitude of an autumn evening at that home can only be felt, not described. What a medley of discordant sounds pained the ear? What a rush of melancholy thoughts depressed the heart? Armies of green frogs left their slimy pools and asserted from every log, that they were the proud owners of the swamp, while their tree cousins mingled disagreeable voices. The howl of wolves, as night fell on the homesick pioneer, seemed to speak in strange language the folly of his adventure. The sharp click of mud which followed every labored step of the cow in the dooryard brought additional testimony of the unfitness of the place as a habitation of man."

Part of Michigan Territory
Cuyahoga
Geauga
Trumbull
Portage
Stark
Columbiana
Richland
Wayne
Coshocton
Tuscarawas
Knox
Delaware
Licking
Belmont
Guernsey
Champaign
Madison
Fairfield
Monroe
Pebble
Greene
Fayette
Pickaway
Virginia
Butler
Clinton
Highland
Pike
Jackson
Adams
Scioto
Part of Kentucky
1817
OHIO


Boundary contended for by the Ohio Legislature.
Boundary claimed by the Governor of Michigan.
1820
INDIAN TRAILS
WILLIAMS
HENRY
PAULDING
PUTNAM
HANCOCK
SENECA
WYANDOT
ALLEN
HARDIN
CRAWFORD
RICHLAND

An excerpt from an 1832 issue of the Ohio and Michigan Register – An Immigrant's Guide further describes conditions in the Black Swamp.

"The swampy areas are less healthy than the higher ground, no doubt owing to the vapours which always arise from them, and which settling at night into deep fogs overhang the area...sometimes to a late hour in the morning. Medical men believe that these fogs, and dew operate on the human system and cause malaria, miasma, bilious fevers and ague....because of its name, Black Swamp, it has until lately been passed by as incapable or unworthy of cultivation. It appears to be a dead level, the growth upon it being too thick to judge of the nature of its surface; however, there seems to a gradual descent toward the lake. This land will some day be one of the most beautiful and one of the richest settlements in the whole range of states...As this land has been sold mostly on credit, it has of course been taken up chiefly by poor people, whose progress the first years of settlement will naturally be very slow."

1835 – 1840

In 1835 in the heat of the dispute between Ohio and Michigan known as the Toledo War, Lucas County was hastily formed to occupy and claim the disputed land. The northwest tip of what had been Sandusky County was being claimed by Michigan. This area became part of the newly formed Lucas County.

We observe 1836 as the date of the beginning of the **Town of Woodville**. The first plat was recorded on June 13, 1836, by Amos E. Wood and George H. Price. The first plat had this caption: "Map of Town of Woodville, situated in Clay Township, Sandusky County, Ohio: on west side and adjoining the Portage River." This plat consisted of 42 lots on a tract commencing on the west side of the Portage River, and extending west on Main Street (named United States Road on the plat) to Cherry Street and then south to the Portage River.

The second platting of the Town of Woodville took place in 1838 but was not filed until 1843. This platting was by Amos Pratt and Daniel Hubbell and now included lots on the north side of the Western Reserve and Maumee Turnpike.

Township boundaries continued to change and in 1838 sixteen townships were established as follows: York, Townsend, Riley, Green Creek, Ballville, Sandusky, Washington, Jackson, **Clay**, Harrison, Salem, Bay, Portage and Carroll, with two townships whose names were not given. (Town of Woodville and surrounding land was part of Clay Township).

Also, in 1838 Erie County was set off from Huron County.

The present boundaries of the township are a result of Sandusky County Commissioner's actions of April 1, 1840. Ottawa County was created from the northern townships. Sandusky County as we know it today is bounded on the north by Ottawa County and Sandusky Bay, east by Erie and Huron Counties, south by Seneca and west by Wood County. The twelve townships listed in 1840 are as follows: Ballville, Sandusky, Riley, Rice, York, Townsend, Green Creek, Scott, Jackson, Madison, Washington and **Woodville.** Sandusky County covers about 432 square miles. **Woodville Township** covers 32 square miles, acreage of 19,150. They named the area "Woodville

Township" in honor of Amos E. Wood*, a leading citizen and prominent in public affairs.

*NOTE: Following a Historical Article in the Fremont News Messenger, Sanford Price wrote to the paper in January 1971 giving his families opinion on the naming of Woodville and Woodville Township. Sanford states: "We feel that the town was named after Ephraim Wood, Jr., the father of Amos E. Wood." Perhaps most of what historians have written was an assumption based on Amos E. Wood's successful political life. Ephraim Wood, Jr. was Sanford's great, great, great grandfather. Ephraim Wood's daughter, Parthenia married George H. Price. The museum has a picture of Amos E. Wood.

Woodville Township's surface is mostly a plain. The Portage River traverses the township in northeasterly course dividing it into two almost equal parts. Toussaint Creek crosses the township in the north, and Sugar Creek in the southeast. The creeks run parallel with the Portage River. These streams are separated by ridges of limestone, the outcrops of the underlying Niagara formation. Between these ridges the soil is the ordinary mixture characteristic of the Black Swamp region.

For the genealogist, records of this area date mostly from the War of 1812. There is some earlier data on the Two Mile Square Reserve. Sandusky, Croghan, Portage and Seneca Townships appear in the 1820 federal census under Huron County. Also, in Huron County are the 1815-1820 land, probate, marriage and tax records. Sandusky County has the records for areas in today's Seneca and Ottawa Counties from 1820-1824. As boundaries changed, so did record retention.

MAUMEE & WESTERN RESERVE ROAD

Most important to the settlement of Sandusky County and the Woodville area was the completion of the Maumee and Western Reserve Road. The Indians by The Brownstown Treaty of 1808 had given to the federal government a strip of land one mile wide across their reservation from the foot of the Maumee Rapids/Twelve Mile Square Reserve, through Lower Sandusky/Two Mile Square Reserve, and to the west line of the Connecticut Western Reserve. (a strip one mile wide from the Maumee River in Perrysburg through Fremont to the east end of present day Sandusky County).

The roadway was to be cleared 120 feet wide. The outside 13 feet on each side was to be cut with stumps as high as in an ordinary clearing; the next inner 17 feet on each side cut nearly level with the earth; and the middle 60 feet was to be grubbed up clean "and thrown up in the form of a turnpike."

The federal government took little or no action toward the building of the road, and for years it was little more than a clearing through the swamp, criss-crossed by streams and in places fallen trees, making its use by wheeled vehicles all but impossible. In 1823 the federal government gave the entire strip to the State of Ohio.

In 1824 the State of Ohio started to work on the road with earth scooped out from the sides to make a raised roadbed, and two-inch thick planks eight feet long laid crosswise on stringers. This was called a "plank road." By oversight or by design, no culverts under the road were included with the result that natural south to north drainage in effect created a dam and water stood in the ditches much of the year, soaking the roadbed and allowing the planks to sink in the mud!

The road was completed in 1827. The eastern part of the road lay on higher ground; however, west of Lower Sandusky (Fremont) laid the impenetrable forests of the Black Swamp. The road was but a clearing through the swamp and a sea of mud except when frozen in the winter. Logs thrown across soon sank out of sight, and the road known as the "Mud Pike" had the reputation of being the worst road in America. But it was a direct road to Michigan and a steady stream of pioneers in covered wagons somehow seemed to wallow through.

The settlers began to come in ever-increasing numbers, wading and dragging along through the mud. At one time there were thirty-two taverns or inns in thirty-one miles on the road. A mile a day was considered good progress.

The lands adjacent to the road in the one-mile strip were to be sold to defray the expenses of construction of the new road. A survey of the pike lands was completed in May 1827 and a numbering system assigned. Trees were used to establish

boundaries and in the legal descriptions of the land. Later deeds using the Rectangular survey method still carry Pike Survey numbers.

On Page #13 is the Woodville Township portion of the 1827 Pike Survey, and information about the surveying of the Northwest Territory.

During the so-called "Toledo War" when Ohio and Michigan militia threatened one another over a boundary dispute, Governor Robert Lucas led Ohio troops to Perrysburg over the road and had to abandon some of his equipment in the mud. Because of the war, high ranking officials and the military now heavily used the road and its reputation of being one of the worst roads in the nation spread. Fortunately for the development of our area, a Mr. Rudolph Dickinson of Lower Sandusky (Fremont) was chosen as a member of the Board of Public Works, and he sponsored an act calling for improvements to the road.

In 1838 the General Assembly of the State of Ohio appropriated $40,000 to drain and macadamize (stone) the road and to make it a toll road. The Maumee and Western Turnpike continued as a toll road until 1888. Now more settlers began to flock in and clear the land. One of the taverns along the way was the Four Mile House Tavern. It was told that some days 80 or 90 teams of movers passed in one day. At night the tavern was filled from the lower floor to the attic.

It was not an unusual sight to see a settler's wagon stuck in the mud, and some tavern keepers made more money pulling wagons out of the muck, than they did at their tavern business. Teams of oxen were often used for this task.

Historian Nevin O. Winter wrote the following account entitled A QUEER INDUSTRY.

"The famous Black Swamp was a source of much discomfort to the early immigrants. Those already on the ground however, were not altogether without the business instinct. Among the cultivated industries of that time in certain localities was the furnishing of relief to travelers, chiefly emigrants whose teams were frequently stalled in the successive "mud-holes." So common had this become that some landlords sometimes provided themselves with extra yokes of oxen, with which to extend the needed assistance. This business came to be so far systematized that the rights of settlers to the "mud-hole" nearest them were mutually recognized. It was told that on a time a certain tavern-keeper, who had long held undisputed possession of a particularly fine mud-hole which he had cultivated with special care for the profit it brought him, sold his stand when preparing to leave the country. Regarding his interest in the hole as a franchise too valuable to be abandoned, he finally disposed of it, and claimed his right thereto, to a neighbor for the sum of $5, being probably the only case on records of the sale of a mud-hole for use as such. This instinct has not entirely passed away, for the writer has known of mud-holes that have been diligently cultivated for the unwary automobile driver in this twentieth century of the Christian era." (written by Winter in 1917).

There were seven toll houses on the turnpike located as follows: 1 mile east of Perrysburg, 12 miles east of Perrysburg, 3 miles east of Woodville, 1 mile west of Fremont, 1 mile east of Fremont, 1 mile west of Clyde, and 1 mile west of Bellevue.

The toll houses are described as two story, shingle roof, frame buildings, with kitchen attached. They were insured for $250, the one at Clyde insured for $400. This information is from an insurance policy register for the period March 11, 1884 to January 11, 1889.

Toll house #3 was east of Woodville near Busy Corners (junction of US 20 and SR 51). The last toll-keepers were William and Julia Hendricks Miller. Mr. Miller was a Civil War veteran, very zealous in the performance of his job as toll keeper, having little tolerance for lawbreakers and turning them in to the local Justice of the Peace. The JP's heard all sorts of cases including non-payment of tolls and some unusual cases such as fines assessed for the act of swearing in front of ladies!

The Historical Museum has the toll keeper's desk and toll book on display. Tolls were collected according to the size of the rig, carriage, coach or wagon, number of horses or mules, the size of the load, and the size of the wheel rim. The museum also has the handwritten Justice of Peace docket listing some of the cases referred to above.

Milestones were set in 1842 between Lower Sandusky and Perrysburg, this being the most difficult section of the road to navigate. The triangular shaped stones were set at one-mile (story continues on Page 14)

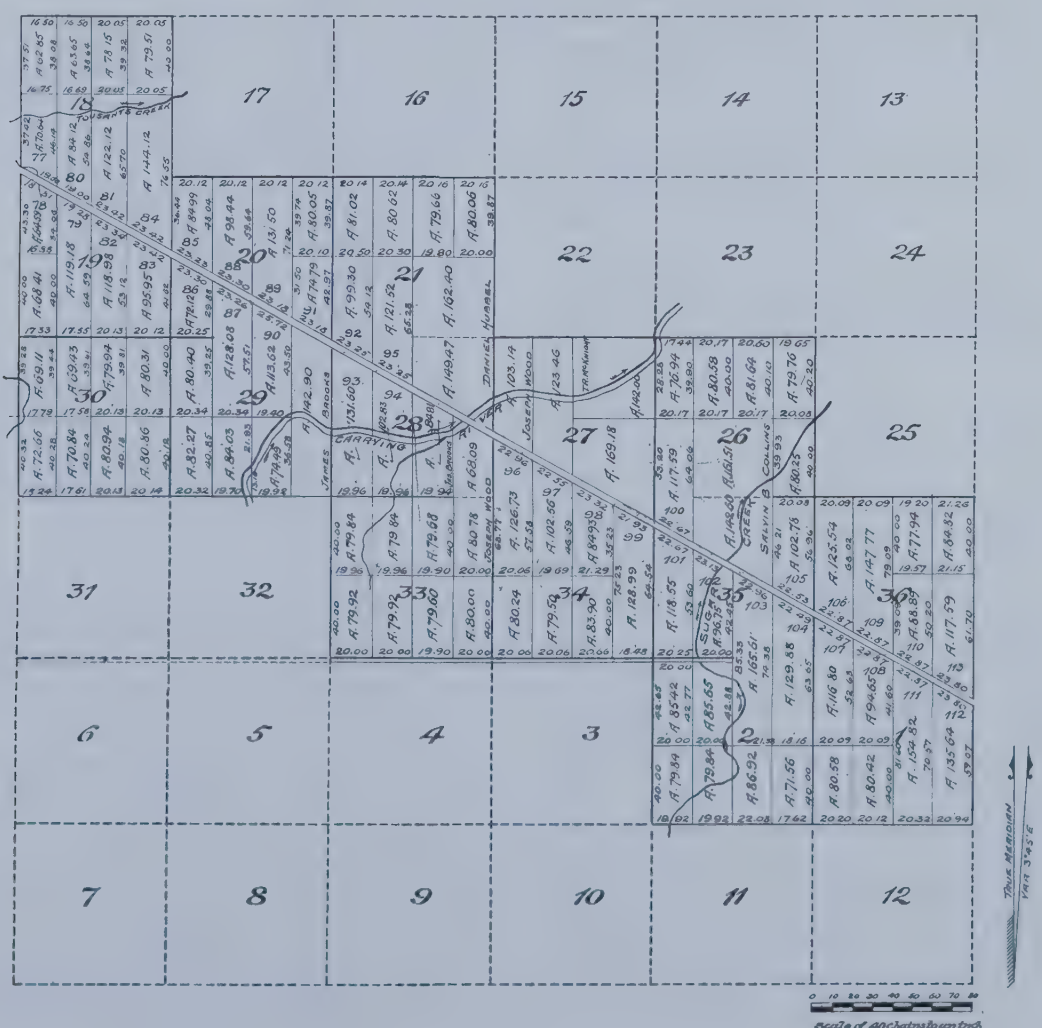
ABOUT SURVEYS

William Ewing surveyed government outposts and forts and reserves in the Northwest Territory from 1805 to 1807. Later in about 1820 the area was once again surveyed and the immediate area of Woodville Township was surveyed by Charles Roberts. At this time the rectangular survey was used and is still in use today. This is based on the concept that townships are 36 square miles and the sections are numbered 1 – 36. Each section contains 640 acres. (as townships were formed and boundaries adjusted, the ideal of 36 sq. miles was not often realized).

The Pike Survey map of Woodville Township completed in May 1827 by Josiah Atkins, Jr., shows Tracts #77 - #113. The purpose of this survey was to promote the sale of pike lands to help pay for the construction of the new road.

Land sold in 1826 (see Page 14) and in the early months of 1827 prior to the Pike Survey was deeded using the Rectangular Survey. Note the absence of Pike numbers on the parcels that were sold prior to the Pike Survey.

When land that was originally deeded using the Pike Survey changes ownership today, the Pike Survey numbering system is still used with additional references to the rectangular survey.



Intervals on the north side of the roadway as specified by state statute, and were to facilitate the collection of tolls. The milestones were carved from limestone. A milestone is located in front of the drug store in Woodville. The carving shows "LS 15 m" on one side, and "P 16 m" on the other side. Woodville is about mid-point between Lower Sandusky (Fremont) and Perrysburg. Monies for the plaque and installation were provided by a grant from Martin Marietta Corporation.

IN CONCLUSION

In the mid 1830s European people, mostly from Germany, began to immigrate to the New World and to the Black Swamp area. Clearing the land and digging ditches for draining the land was one of the first tasks faced by early settlers. Rutherford B. Hayes, who was the 19th President of the United States, said the following in an address given in 1877: "*I have often thought that the Black Swamp could not have been settled without the industry and force of the German people.*"

Historians state that by 1842 the state was entirely freed from its aborigine population as the Indians had all relocated elsewhere in the West.

By 1850 the State of Ohio was the third most populous state in the nation and it was still an essentially rural and agricultural state.

STORY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

The settlement of Woodville and the township is an outstanding story of pioneer struggle and hardship; perseverance against overwhelming circumstances, sickness and death; isolation from the world; and an almost hopeless fight with Mother Nature. The Black Swamp covered western Sandusky County and Wood County and permanent settlements were not made for quite a number of years after those in most of the other parts of the county.

The early settlers faced many hardships and difficulties; the suffering and sacrifices of their lives should make us more contented and satisfied with our own surroundings and life today. Many of the early immigrants either turned back from the Black Swamp or pushed beyond, leaving this vast area an almost unbroken wasteland.

There were occasional "squatters" in the Woodville area. The first clearing was made in the fall of 1825. A little log cabin was erected and occupied in 1826 by Thomas and Harriet Miller. He died in 1828. Mrs. Miller kept a tavern and later in 1836 she married Charles Seager. Historian VanTassel states that the little cabin stood back of the Cronenwett Drug Store (store built much later, ...at the corner of Bridge and Water Streets).

The first recorded land records in 1826 show the following purchases:

- Daniel Hubbel: 311+ acres in Town of Woodville on north side of the M&W Road
- Thomas McKnight: 142 acres in area now known as Water Street
- Joseph Wood: 251 acres on the east end of Woodville, some of the land still held by the Price family
- C. B. Collins: 304+ acres on Sugar Creek

Lester Allen was one of the earliest to settle in the east part of the present township. In 1831 the Baldwin and Chaffa families arrived. There were only five families in the township at this time. The area was unofficially known as Yankee Township.

In 1832 Ephraim Wood, Jr. of Vermont and his son-in-law G. H. Price of New York bought land and built homes in what later became Sections 27 and 28 of the village. Price's tract was what is now the south side of Route 20 in the Village of Woodville. Wood's tract was to the east and across the Portage River. Here Wood erected a log cabin, later adding a frame building and here he kept a tavern. The first township election was held at Wood's Tavern in 1840.

C. B. Collins was the Superintendent for the grading of the Maumee and Western Reserve Road. He purchased acreage on Sugar Creek in 1826 and moved here from Sandusky, OH in 1834. His home and trading post was on the north side of the roadway and on the east side of Sugar Creek.

Most of the early settlers came here from New York and Pennsylvania and other eastern states and other areas in Ohio. They were attracted by the cheap land and perhaps by the spirit of adventure. Many left comfortable homes and farms in the east and sold their properties to buy oxen or horses and wagons to haul their belongings. There were no stores in the wilderness so provisions and supplies had to be brought in their wagons.

Most of the settlers traveled here in the wintertime when the ground was frozen, but travel was still very difficult. Some came via the Erie Canal to Buffalo and then across the lake. The Erie Canal was completed in 1832. Others came cross-country over Indian trails since there were very few roads.

Several families would arrive together and help each other build their cabins when they reached the Black Swamp area. Moss-covered logs and bushes served as bridges across flooded swamps and swales. Many became very discouraged after one season. Family members became ill and died. Those that were left alive would gladly have gone back where they came from, but they could not get out of the swamp as they had no money left to pay for travel.

Following the American Revolution in 1776 to the Civil War nearly 100 years later, all any foreigner had to do to become an American was show up on our shores. There were no restrictions for nearly the first 100 years of our country's existence.

German people from the Province of Hanover, a few Swiss and Saubians started to arrive as early as 1833. They purchased the "pike lands" in 40, 60 and 80 acre tracts at $1.25 per acre. The new arrivals were very poor, but were skilled in the crafts, making their own shoes and clothing and ready to make a better life in the new world. Arriving in the 1830s were the Meyerholtz, Hurrelbrink, Gerwin, Seabert, Gfeller, Mauntler, Blausey, Meyer, Solman and Stein families; these are familiar names with many descendents still living in the area.

The following is a listing of the early arrivals **prior to 1840**, as well as additional information such as birth and death dates, and a few stories about the earliest settlers.

MILLER, Thomas & Harriet – arrived in 1826 – the first settlers in Woodville.

ALLEN, Lester – b. 1815, d. 21 Feb 1847 – settled in the eastern part of the township and one of the first township trustees.

BOOSE Family – arrived about 1830.

BALDWIN & CHAFFA Families – arrived in October 1831 – emigrated from Vermont to Columbiana County to Geauga County and then to Woodville Township. Ebenezer Baldwin, Sr. (a widower) died here in 1839. Son, Ebenezer, Jr. was married to Rachel Chaffa and he died of cholera in 1834 at the age of forty-three. The Baldwins had seven sons and three daughters. Mrs. Baldwin lived into her 80's and later married a Truax. Nelson T. Baldwin, son of Ebenezer, Jr., married Catherine E. Boose. Nelson served as Township Trustee over ten years and owned land in Section 17.

WOOD Family – (Ephraim, Sr. remained in Vermont). Ephraim Wood, Jr. b. 1781, d. 13 Sep 1861 & wife Hannah (Doan) b. 25 Sep 1780, d. 6 Oct 1854 – arrived from Vermont in 1832. They had five children: Urvalda/Valdi who became a tavern keeper, Amelia, Parthenia who married George Hobart Price, Sylvia, and **Amos E. Wood**. Amos was a prominent farmer and cattle raiser who served two terms in the Ohio Legislature; he was a member of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. He was twice elected to Congress and died 18 Nov 1850 during his second term of office.

PRICE Family – George H. b. 23 Sep 1793 & wife Parthenia (Wood) b. 7 Jan 1809, d. 13 Nov 1890 – came from New York to Woodville in 1832. They had two children: William Wood Price and George E. Price.

SCOTT, John H. & James – brothers who came from southeastern Ohio in 1834. John & wife Rachel (McBeath) settled in Section 1 near the toll gate. James & wife Lucinda located on the road from Woodville to Elmore near the property of Michael McBride. Both brothers left the area moving to Illinois in about 1856.

MOORE Family – John b. 1795, d. 9 Aug 1871 & wife Mary (Picking) b. 1794, d. 7 May 1866 – arrived May 1834 with 11 children from Hampton, PA and purchased land from Mr. Coleman, a speculator. They built a cabin and cleared two acres of land. There were no fences and the nearest house to the west was 1½ miles away and nearly 3 miles away in the other directions.

KOEBLE/KERBEL Family – J. Peter b. 1790, d. 1 Sep 1870 & wife M. Caroline b. 1797, d. 12 Jul 1866 – from Germany in 1834 – farmer settling in Section 25.

PLUMB Family – Jared b. 1801, d. 8 Feb 1864 & wife Emeline – came in 1834. The family emigrated from New York via Buffalo and across Lake Erie to Perrysburg and by wagon from there down the Mud Pike to Woodville Township and settled on what later became the Rupke farm. So thick were the woods along the creek that Jared had to cut his way to where he erected their first log home. He rapidly cleared the land and built a more comfortable home.

COLLINS, C. B. – from Sandusky, OH – purchased land near Sugar Creek and he and his wife moved here in 1834. He was Superintendent for the grading of the Maumee and Western Road. Mrs. Collins died in 1836 and is cited as the first known burial in the Collins (Sugar Creek) Cemetery.

BANKS, David B. – b. 7 Nov 1802, d. 16 Dec 1838 & wife Pamelia (Warriner) b. 1809, d. 27 Jan 1907 – emigrated from New York in 1834 or 1835 and located in Section 29 where they built a grist mill and sawmill.

DUNHAM Family – Davis, Sr., b. 11 Jan 1798, d. 1882 & wife Anna (Weidner) b. 1793, d. 8 Oct 1864 – the family came to Woodville Township from Erie County, PA between 1833 and 1835. The family was of English-Irish stock and had been in this country for some time, emigrating from Virginia to Pennsylvania. They settled in the south part of Section 25. Their eldest son, **Almon Dunham**, owned ground in Section 27 on the north side of SR 105 (later Obermyer farm). Almon served locally as a Justice of the Peace, and later from 1878-1884 was a member of the State Legislature.

MEYERHOLTZ Family – John F. b. Sep 1794, d. 2 Jul 1857 & wife Frederika (Hurrelbrink) b. 16 Dec 1797, d. 24 Mar 1892 – from Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany in 1834 or 1835. They settled on US 20 at Gibsonburg Junction in Section 35. They had 10 children: Mary + C. H. Damschroder, Sr., John F. "Frederick" + Mary Luebker, Maria, Henry + Mary Louise Dusing, George + Rose Ann Spafford, Louisa + Davis Dunham, Jr., William + Sarah Morse. Three children were buried in Germany. (+ indicates married to)

PRESTON – Hiram & Lucina – from Pennsylvania in about 1835 – settled in Section 27.

HURRELBRINK Family – Bartholomon b. 1800, d. 1865 & wife Catherine b. 1803, d. 1 Mar 1879 – natives of Hanover, Germany who arrived in 1835. Their son was John H.

GERWIN – Christian & wife Julia (Linnerbrink) – to Woodville Township in 1835 and returned to Germany in 1842.

HARTMAN Family – John H. & wife Clarissa – from Germany in the mid 1830s. The following story appeared as part of an interview of grandson Louis H. Hartman who was Mayor of Woodville from 1909 to 1913. *"My grandparents borrowed money to purchase 25 acres at $1.25 per acre. The forests were unbroken, streams unbridged, they would go on foot to Lower Sandusky for supplies carrying them on their backs since the woods were impassable for horses and vehicles. They bought a large coffee mill to grind their grain into meal for bread. Wild deer roamed at will in the woods and large herds were seen. Early Germans did not use firearms nor had money, nor guns, so deer were at first left untouched. Food was scarce and it was not an unusual thing for people to go hungry for want of it."*

SEABERT – Henry b. 1802 & wife Mary b. 1807 – from Hanover, Germany in 1836 or 1837.

MAUNTLER Family – John Henry b. 1789, d. 1853 & wife Marie E. b. 1786, d., 10 Jan 1879 – from Hanover, Germany in 1836 – settled in Section 29.

RICE – Archibald b. 1802, d. 3 Nov 1877 & wife Athildred M. b. 1806, d. 17 Oct 1889 – from Onandaga, NY – arrived in Woodville Township in 1837.

BLANCK/BLANK – William b. 1790, d. 8 Jun 1871 & 1st wife Anna b. 1800, d. Jul 1842, 2nd wife Catherine died at age 54. From Pennsylvania in 1837 and settled near Sugar Creek in south part of township. They are buried in the Collins (Sugar Creek) Cemetery.

MEYER – Herman b. 31 Jul 1807, d. 13 May 1893 & wife Margaret K. b. 1803, d. 12 Mar 1853 – from Germany in 1837 settling in Section 33.

SOLMAN, Garret – a wagonmaker who came from Germany in 1837 and settled about ¾ mile south of Woodville on Anderson Road. He is credited with building the first frame house after the organization of the township.

WALTER – J. L. b. 25 Nov 1809, d. 25 Jul 1893 & wife Anna b. 23 Feb 1818, d. 2 Sep 1896 – from Germany to Virginia to Woodville in about 1837.

STEIN Family – Harmon A. & wife Mary E. (Tuhlman) – from Germany in 1839 and settled on farm southwest of Woodville. Harmon died in 1901 at age 75, his widow died in 1907. They had 11 children – son, Louis married Carrie Barkhau and they were parents of Clarence, Walter and Alton.

McBRIDE – Michael b. 1807, d. 18 Sep 1890 & wife Joanna (Kaily from Ireland) b. 1815, d. 31 Mar 1877 – he was a native of Pennsylvania moving to Ohio in 1837. Michael was a contractor for the building of the stone pike. In 1841 he purchased land along Sugar Creek. The McBride Tavern stood on the south side of the pike and west of Sugar Creek. The Tavern is the first in the ornament series presented by the Historical Society. Joanna was a devote Catholic and the sponsor of many area children. A high-ranking Priest from Cleveland often traveled to the Black Swamp for baptisms. The 1860 Census indicates that Michael's parents, John McBride, Sr. and Nancy, also lived in Woodville Township. A brother, John McBride, Jr., and several surnamed Gillespies lived in the McBride household.

FREZE Family – Henry/Herman H. b. 1813, d. 1853 & wife Louise (Heilbrandt) – to township in 1838 settled near Sugar Creek. Son, Charles L. clerked in Damschroder's Store and Mary Freze married C. H. Damschroder, Jr.

CLINK Family – Caleb b. 7 May 1811, d. 26 Nov 1894 & wife Mary (Brunthaver) – came to township in about 1838 – farmers and stock dealers settling in Section 5.

NIEMANN/NIEMAN Family – Johann H. b. 1807, d. 13 Sep 1867 & wife Clara (Lunebrink) – from Germany to Ohio to Woodville Township in 1839 settling in Section 32. Son Henry was born at sea in 1839, d. 17 Feb 1896.

HENDRICKS/HENRICKS – William Cors b. 28 Mar 1815, d. 7 Jul 1902 – native of Germany to Toledo in 1834 when city was called Vistula and Port Lawrence. He was the first German immigrant to Toledo according to Homer Everett's HISTORY OF SANDUSKY COUNTY. He fought in the Michigan and Ohio Border War in 1835. He came to Woodville after 1836 and helped build some of the first houses. He lived in one of three houses west of the Furry Hotel (site of Ohio Lime building), called the Huff house. In 1839 he bought the David Banks farm located one mile south of town along the Portage River. Henricks married Louise Jappenstick.

NUHFER – Andrew b. 19 Oct 1819, d. 26 Jul 1908 & wife Anna Elizabeth (Shuler) b. 23 Nov 1827, d. 25 Mar 1925 – Andrew came from Bavaria in 1839 or 1840 and was a blacksmith. He served in the Civil War Company D, 72nd Regiment OVI and was wounded during the Battle of Shiloh. After the war he owned a hardware store, was a Township Trustee and Sandusky County Treasurer, and also the Postmaster in 1882.

FERGUSON, Dr. A. R. – Archibald and his wife came to Woodville in about 1839. She died in February 1850 and two children resided with him per the 1850 Census. He was involved with the Toledo, Norwalk and Cleveland Railroad that decided to locate in Elmore. He moved to Fremont in 1862.

SCOVILLE, James; PITCHER, Samuel & Erastus; KELSEY, Ira; and Mr. Thatcher – all from New York State relocating to Woodville in about 1840.

TRUMAN Family – Thomas L. b. 1820, d 27 Dec 1885 and wife Susanna (Baldwin) b. 1827, d. 25 Feb 1901 – from Ottawa County to Woodville Township in 1839. He served as Township Trustee and Justice of the Peace. He built many of the first structures in the township, among them the first frame schoolhouse and the first Lutheran Church. Thomas L. Truman, Sr. b. 1796, d. 18 Apr 1849 and his wife Elizabeth b. 1795, d. 9 Dec 1864, emigrated from Connecticut to Benton Township in Ottawa County and were among the first settled in that area.

CRONENWETT Family – Rev. George b. 1 Nov 1814, d. 31 Jan 1888 & wife Magdalena (Knab) b. 27 Jun 1820, d. 18 Mar 1901 – came from Monroe, Michigan in 1841 to serve Solomon Lutheran Church. He was born in Langensteinbach, Baden, Germany.

The Freze family came from Germany in about 1838 and settled in Section 3 south of town and near Sugar Creek. These pictures are believed to be from about 1853 showing their homestead and also the interior of their loghouse. Mr. Freze died in 1853 – note the draped and prominently displayed picture.

Many more families arrived **between 1840 and 1850.** The United States Government conducted a census in 1850. The following information is from a publication U. S. CENSUS INDEX as presented by the Sandusky County Kin Hunters. The census information lists the head of the household and spouse, children, and others living with the family and their ages. Occasionally occupation and the spouse's maiden name are also listed. The U. S. CENSUS INDEX booklet is available at the Library and the Museum.

The following extraction does not include children and others living in the household. NOTE: *INFORMATION IN ITALICS WAS EXTRACTED FROM OTHER SOURCES.*

Head of Household & Age	Spouse & Age
Albert, George, Sr. – 68	Margaret – 68
From Wembach, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany to Wood Co. in 1840, later to Woodville Twp.	
Albert, George, Jr. – 38	
To Woodville Twp in 1842 – Section 19. Operated store from 1851-1869 and manufactured Cider and vinegar from 1869-1874.	
Aldrich, William – 35	
Anderson, William – 50	Sarah (Sanders) – 45
Baker, Elijah – 75	Lovina (White) – 56
Lovina was descendent of William White who came to America on The Mayflower.	
Baker, Sanford G. – 33	Cynthia A. (Webster) – 31
b. 18 Jul 1817, d. 11 Apr 1912	*b. 1819, d. 20 Jan 1857*
From Vermont to Ontario, Canada to Lemoyne in 1836; 1845 purchased land in Section 20 (on West US 20).	
Baldwin, Nelson T. – 30	Catharine – 29 (Boose)
Baldwin, Caroline – 30	
Banks, Mary – 41	
Barcalder, Chris – 69	Elizabeth – 65
Barchell, Engle – 35	Cath – 37
Barkhau, Fred – 46	Anna (Meyer) – 45
From Germany in 1843 – settled in Section 25.	
Bauman/Bowman, Ernest – 38	Catherine – 33
Baze/Boese/Basey – Harmon – 50	Sophia – 35
Benedict, Ira – 43	Catharine – 44
Native of New York – settled in 1841 – purchased 183 acres in Section 31. Considered a fine scholar, and served as the first clerk of Woodville Township.	
Bennet, Thomas – 50	Bridget – 55
Bennett, James – 34	Rachell – 33
Bigelow, Daniel S. – 55	Almira – 53
Bigelow, George – 23	Besty – 17
Blank/Blanck, George – 32	Hannah (Hess) - 22
Blank/Blanck, William – 60	Catharine – 43
Blaus/Blausey, Henry/J.H. – 52	Maria C. (Neimhaus) – 48
From Barkhausen, Province of Hanover, Germany in 1843 – settled in Section 30.	
Blausey, Henry – 55	Maria – 57
Borden, Levi E. – 36 a merchant	Emily – 34
Borgending/Borcherding, Henry – 62	Charlott – 62
Brim, George – 42	Besty Maria (Loop) – 36
To Maumee in 1835, to Woodville in 1838 settling in Section 20.	
Brown, Stephen – 38	Sarah (Swartsman) – 27
Bumpus, Simon J. – 48	Matilda – 41
Burman, Ernest H.	
From Germany in 1843 settling in Section 30.	

Head of Household & Age	Spouse & Age
Burnham, Jabez – 30 a blacksmith	Sarah (Down) – 29
Camper, J. F. – from Hanover, Germany in 1850 – settled in Section 10 in northern part of township.	
His family: John, William, Ernest who married Catharine Kruse, Mary, Frederick and Charles	
Carel, Peter – 61	Caroline – 53
Carsner, Mich – 22	Mary (Tubbs) – 19
Carter, Charles – 20 school teacher	
Chambers, Robert – 27	Mary – 27
Cherry, William – 33	Elizabeth (Case) – 22
Civit, John – 41	Elizabeth – 40
Clark, William – 26	Eliza – 24
Clink, Caleb – 40	Mary (Brunthaver) – 38
Coleman/Koleman/Kuhlman, Frederick – 46	Maria (Stratman) – 31
Coleman/Koleman/Kuhlman, Henry – 39	Maria – 33
Coleman/Koleman/Kuhlman, Robert – 22	Martha – 25
Con, Phillip – 19 a shoemaker	
Cook, Fred – 45	Angeline – 41
Cossnik, Harmon – 45	Eliza – 36
Crame, Chris – 30	Mary – 25
Cramer/Kramer, Thomas – 35	Adaline – 25
Cramer/Kramer, Benjamin – 40	Margaret - 38
Crant, Henry – 40	Polly – 35
Cronenwett, George – 36 minister	Magdalen(Knab) - 30
Crowfoot, David S. – 39	Eliza (Bigelow) – 32
Crozen, Harmon – 36	Anna – 42
Damschroder, Christopher H. – 36 hotelkeeper	Mary A. (Meyerholtz) – 31
Darling, Lewis – 30	Christina (Moore) – 28
Daum, Anthony – 55	C – 34
Dick, Peter – 59	Hannah – 58
Didemire/Dedemier – Elizabeth – 50	
Dishen, Noah – 25	
Down, Sarah – 65	
Widow of Edward Down, an Englishman who came from New York to Ohio in 1840.	
Dryer, Francis – 32	Angeline – 30
Duke, John – 48	Nancy (Bynum) – 42
Dunham, Almon – 26	Mary (Allen) – 32
Dunham, Davis, Sr. – 52	Anna (Weidner) – 55
Dunlap, William – 42	Sarah – 43
Eaton, John – 25	Eunice (Hathaway) – 18
Elder, M. A. – 28 clerk	Caroline – 25
Emch, Elizabeth (Baumgartner) – 60	
Husband Urs died in Switzerland in 1835. Elizabeth via Buffalo to Woodville Township In 1845 with 4 sons: Fred, Nicholas, John and Urs, Jr.	
Emch, Nicholas – 28	Barbara (Flickinger) – 26
Emch, John – 30	Maria – 31
Emch, Jacob – 32	Magdalena – 38
Ernsthausen, Frederick – 33	Anna M. (Winters) – 40
Faler, Jonathon potash maker/carpenter	*Catherine (Swartzman)*

Head of Household & Age		Spouse & Age
Fausey, Eliza – 37		
Fausey, Henry – 33		Rebecca (Donnell) - 27
Ferguson, A. R. – 35	doctor	
Fishbecke, Franz H. – 40		Ann/Elizabeth (Hiller) – 22
Fleckinger, Olreach – 60		Barbara – 56
Florian, George – 34		Susanna – 32
Forke, Fred – 34		Angeline – 34
Forke, Henry – 63		Mary – 66
Forke, Henry – 34		Mary – 27
Henry E. to Woodville in 1843 – deacon at Solomon Lutheran Church.		
Frabish, John – 35		Rosanna (Walters) – 50
Frazer, Harmon – 35		Ann M. – 30
Frazer, Henry – 42		Henrietta – 36
Frederick, Ernst – 32		Maria – 40
Frederick, John – 57		Maria – 53
Gallagher, William – 51		Elizabeth – 51
Gamon, Amos – 31		Hannah – 29
Gaser, John – 25	a tanner	Mary (Shepherd) – 20
Geyer, William – 31	Methodist minister	Eliza – 21
Gramling, Jacob – 36	carpenter	
Graves, Harrey – 42	shoemaker	
Greyback, Frederick – 34		Margaret – 36
Haberstroch, Lambert – 42	gunsmith	Vallaugh (Wallburga) – 31
Hall, Truss – 36	gatekeeper	Sarah – 36
Hallorn, Christian – 39		Julia – 35
Hanley, La J. – 28	hotelkeeper	Sarah – 24
Harmire/Harmyer, Adam – 47		Eliza – 40
Harns, Merrit – 32		Alithea Jane (Kelsey) – 28
Hart, Sarah – 36		
Haudelbrink/Hurrelbrink, Bartholamon – 51		Catharine – 49
Hazelton, Charles – 39		
Henricks, William C. – 35		Louisa (Jappenstick) – 25
Henry, Casper H. – 72		
Herman, Henry – 20	*stockdealer*	
Father Harmon H. Herman from Prussia in 1844 – died about 1845.		
Hill/Hille – Frederick – 70		Elizabeth/Mary E. – 56
Hobler/Hebbler, Clayman – 52		Maria – 40
Holcomb, James T. – 43		Amerilla/Amanda – 38
Hudelbrink/Hurralbrink, Henry – 40		Mary – 41
Hudelbrink/Hurralbrink, John – 53		Mary – 41
Hudelbrink/Hurralbrink, John – 50		Maria – 50
Hudelbrink/Hurralbrink, John H. – 21		
Ickes, George – 50		Margaret (Croyle) – 48
Ickes, Henry – 27		Susan (Staner) – 21
Ingraham, Joseph – 28		Harriet – 22
Jaeger, Fred – 44	physician	Louisa (Unger) – 41
Johnston/Johnson, John A. – 38	lawyer	Elmira (Hafford) – 28

Head of Household & Age		Spouse & Age	
Kaley, Henry – 25	tailor	Amena – 27	
Keller, Jacob – 32	blacksmith	Eliza – 29	
Kellog, Elijah – 31	hotelkeeper	Malu (Mary Ballard) – 31	
Born in Canada – came to Woodville Township in 1843 – purch. Land Section 20 in 1847.			
Kelsey, Jonathon – 63		Sheba – 56	
Kession, William – 45		Isabell – 47	
King, Jeremiah N. – 45		Mary (Dean) – 50	
Kingting, William – 48		Minnie (Saack) – 47	
Klausing/Clausink, Fred		Elizabeth – 40	
From Arenshorst, Germany to Woodville Township about 1842. Settled on farm once owned By Jared Plumb – Section 2 on Sugar Creek – family name changed to Clausing.			
Kline, John – 45		Mary (Morris) – 39	
From Germany in 1847 – settled near Bank's Mill.			
Krotzer, Peter – 47		Layo (Carr) – 39	
From Pennsylvania in 1836 – settled in Section 7 near Wood County line.			
Kruse, Harman/Herman			
From Germany at 12 years of age in about 1845. Married Julia M. Meyers.			
4 children: Henry H., John H. (father former Mayor Walter Kruse), George, Emanuel.			
Kruse, Herman		*Mary (Brant)*	
From Germany in about 1844.			
Kuhlman, Henry – see Coleman			
Kuhlman, Harman H.		*Clara (Fougnthouse)*	
From Germany in about 1842.			
Kuhlman, William E.			
From elsewhere in Ohio to Section 31 in about 1855.			
Kuhler, Laurance – 55		Barbara – 42	
Langerman, H. – 40		Catharine – 33	
Libbe, John H. – 42		Maria/F. M. – 34	
Loe, S. A. – 20	saddler	Eliza A. – 20	
Loop, Jediah – 54		Betsy – 50	
Loos, Charles – 49	merchant	Wahlanie – 42	clerk
Lunenbrink, Lewis – 44		Laura – 39	
Lupkins, Henry – 48		Maria – 38	
Luthee, David – 51	grocer	Mary (Fluteger) – 28	
McBride, Michael – 45	hotelkeeper	Joanna (Kaily) – 36	
McBride, John, Jr. – 26			
McBride, John, Sr. - 69		Nancy – 67	
McCormick, Robert – 39		Nancy – 39	
McNamire, James – 45		Nancy – 35	
Mauntler, John H. – 62		Sara – 64	
Meeker, Benjamin F. – 53	hotelkeeper	Almira (Hafford) – 38	
Meyerholtz, Fred/J.F. – 56		Frederika – 53	
Meyerholtz, John F. - 27		Mary Ann – 30	
Miller, Christina – 43			
Miller, Frederick – 43		Sophia (Mintkink) – 42	
Miller, Jacob – 37		Mary (Kairn) – 25	
Molkenbur, C. H.		*Louisa M. (Shepman)*	
b. 1824, d. 3 Feb 1890		*b. 1835, d. 6 Oct 1909*	
Parents of eleven children.			

Head of Household & Age	Spouse & Age
Moore, J. W. – 30	Sally - 28
Moore, John – 55	Mary (Picking) – 56
Morris, Decator – 30	Catharine (Eyster) – 26
Myer, Mary – 50	
Myers, Garret – 37	Mary – 29
Myers, Harmon – 43	Margaret – 46
Myers, Henry – 40	Doratha (Baker) – 40
Myers, John – 45	Cath. – 43
Myers, John – 43	Catharine – 41
Nieman, John – 42	Clara – 40
Nuhfer, Andrew – 28	Elizabeth (Shuler) – 22
Parmer/Palmer, Seneca – 42	Abigail – 49
Pettibone, Chauncy – 38	Caroline – 28
Pitcher, Samuel – 51	Caroline – 36
Pitcher, M. – 53	Ann – 41
Plumb, Jared – 50	Emeline – 42
Powers, Charles – 31	Lydia Ann (Banks) – 21
Preston, Hiram – 49	Lucina – 38
Price, George H. – 57	Parthena (Wood) – 41
Puyon, Fred – 60	Ann – 34
Ream, Gabriel – 37	Elizabeth (Heberling) – 34
Reeves, Grace – 63	
Rice, Archibald – 48	Atheldred M. (Scoville) – 44
Rice, Samuel A. - 26	Euphenia M. (Haynes) – 30
Road, Henry – 50	Betsy – 45
Rollins, John – 27	Sarah A. – 24
Rottert/Rohtart, Gerhart – 44	Mary – 45
Samson, Lewis/Ludwig – 49	Ann M. – 49
Sanders/Sander – Jacob - 42	Elizabeth – 45
Sanders/Sander – Lewis - 21	Eliza - 20
Sandwisch, Frederick W. – 32	Louisa (Clousing) – 36
From Germany in 1839 – settled in Section 16.	
Sandwisch, Harmon H. – 39	Catherine (Mergel) – 40
b. 1811, d. 1854	b. 1809, d. 1900
Sandwisch, Rodolphus – 43	*2nd husband of Catherine (Mergel).*
Sandwisch, Henry – 40	
Sarpey, John – 36	Eliza – 22
Schroeder/Shrader, Charles – 49 shoemaker	Julia (Glaisecik) – 46
Scott, James – 36	Lucinda - 32
Scott, John – 41	Rachael (McBeath) - 28
Scott, Joseph – 44	
Seabert, Henry – 48	Mary – 43
Seem, Henry – 49	Maria – 34
Shaffer, John – 34	Sarah – 29

Schepman, Garret

b. 21 Sep 1831, d. 29 Sep 1893 From Germany as teenager in about 1845, later married Elizabeth Samson b. 2 Aug 1840, d. 20 Sep 1909

Head of Household & Age	Spouse & Age
Shoemaker, Fred – 46	Elizabeth – 40
Shoemaker, Harmon – 40	Elizabeth – 46
Shoemaker brothers from Germany – settled in same neighborhood as Klausing family.	
Shotswetter, M. – 44	Ann – 34
Shukey, Frederick W. – 54	Mary C. (Fisher) – 40
Smith, Daniel – 36	Jennette (Holcomb) – 35
Smith, Jacob – 30	Lydia – 25
Smith, James A. – 47	Jane (McCormick) – 36
Smith/Schmidt, Nicholas – 46	Catharine (Correll) – 47
Snyder, R. – 35	Cath. – 28
Spada, Garrett – 46	Catharine – 44
Stahler, David – 53	Nancy – 52
Stainer, Henry – 52	Elizabeth – 56
Stainer, Martin T. – 24	Catharine (Bonawitt) – 21
Stanley, Joseph – 26	Lydia (Swartsman) – 24
Steinkamp, Frederick – 33	Margaret – 33
Steinkamp, Henry – 65	Mary – 66
Swartzman, Isaac – 31	Louisa Isbelle – 23
Taylor, Charles – 43	
Taylor, Jonathon – 29	Catharine – 21
Thorn, Alexander – 30	Angeline (Williams) – 26
Tille/Tillie, William – 30	Ann M. (Schroder) – 28
Truax, J. H b. 1823, d. 15 Jan 1902	*Catharine b. 1830, d. 19 Jun 1873*
From Pennsylvania to Woodville Township in 1850 settling in Section 17.	
Truman, Thomas L. – 30	Susannah (Baldwin) – 23
Uhlman, Harmon – 43	
Walter, John Lewis – 40	Anne (Hinnes) – 30
Warts, Christian – 56	Jemmima – 44
Warts, Elias – 33	Melchior Rose – 18
Wichman, C. – 49	Doretta – 46
Wichman, Fred – 47	Maria – 48
West, Benjamin – 33	Sarah A. – 30
Whitmore, Christian – 32	Harriet – 34
Wilkie, John – 53	Anna Mary – 43
Willey, Richard – 30	Harriet G. (Walker) – 24
Williams, Eli – 23	Mary – 26
Williams, Elizabeth – 65	
Williams, Reuben – 30	Sarah – 30
Willie, John – 40	Ann M. – 37
Willment, Anthony – 35	Sally – 22
Willment, George – 32	Caroline (Eoff) – 28
Wolcot, Nelson – 28	Eliza (Reeves) – 23
Wolcot, Susan – 55	
Wood, Amos E. – 39	
Wood, Ephraim – 69	Hannah (Doan) – 70
Wood, Urwalda – 45 hotelkeeper	Mary S. – 30
Younker, Jacob – 66	Barbara – 60

The census information is very interesting; however, there are many mistakes due to language barriers. Some German names are listed phonetically, and we know from local family histories that several families were missed.

Immigration was encouraged for a period during and after the Civil War. The Homestead Act of 1862 guaranteed 160 free acres to just about anyone willing to work for it. The Immigration Law of 1864 guaranteed payment of boat fare on a government loan program. This landmark legislation also promised the would-be citizen that he could not be drafted until or unless he became a US Citizen. This was a matter of great concern at the time of the Civil War, as many came here to avoid service in their home country's military.

Due to very little regulation on immigration and the above legislation, there was a huge influx of people in the 1860s and 1870s. This was the land of opportunity and the chance for a better life!

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A PERSONAL STORY

The following story is from THE MIGRATION OF THE H. H. BOHNING FAMILY from Germany to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843 – per the memories of Ernst Bohning who was 10 years old when the family left Barkhausen, in the Province of Hanover, previously known as the "Kingdom of Hanover." He wrote his story when he was 50 years of age. Mr. Bohning's personal story would be typical of the journey of many of the pioneer families of German extraction who settled in our area.

Excerpts from his writings:

"HURRAH, WIR GEHEN NACH AMERIKA!"
or
"HOORAY, WE'RE GOING TO AMERICA!"

"Several people had already gone from our region to America. A friend who was a tailor settled in Cleveland and was doing well, a wealthy farmer returned impoverished. Even though many advised my father not to emigrate, the idea stubbornly remained in his head.

"We knew very well what we had, namely eight Morgen of good land (about 24 acres) situated by the river and good enough to get by on. Nevertheless my father was not satisfied for life passed by in an eternal round of manure wagon, spinning wheel, pumpernickel, sour milk and boiled potatoes. What's more the family consisted of nine children, five of them boys. Should they become soldiers in the next war, and be shot to death for the King and the Fatherland? He knew that in America no one must become a soldier who didn't want to.

"My oldest brother who would soon be drafted left Germany in the Spring of 1842, destination Cleveland. His reports of America were favorable and our family prepared to leave. In the spring we sold the farm, but were left the crops. The last thing sold was the family dog and cat. The kitty brought 24 Groschen or 48 cents.

"We started our journey with chests and boxes in a big hay wagon, and other families joined us. The ordeal on the hay wagon lasted three days and we came to Bremen. Our legs were cramped, we suffered from terrible heat in the linen-covered wagon, and from burning thirst. The trip to America began to look a little less bright to me.

"We spent a few days in Bremen and finally our belongings were loaded on a barge that floated down the Weser River to the port of Bremerhaven on the North Sea. The barge stuck in the river, but the sailors told us the tides would soon carry us to the sea. The next afternoon the barge was brought to the side of a large three-master sailing ship, the beautiful Marianna. Our belongings were loaded, but we were sent to the Emigrant House to stay overnight.

"Finally on the morning of the seventh day we boarded the ship and immediately lifted anchor. The sailors were very friendly and could even speak Plattdeutsch. Our quarters were not very nice and did not come up to our expectations. Rough lumber was nailed together to make compartments for four people. The compartments were located directly below the upper deck, one over another like a barracks, and in the upper compartment it was hardly possible to sit upright while the lower ones were six to seven feet high. Here we lived and slept with our boxes and chests piled in the middle of our 'new home.' A steep

ladder led to the upper deck and little light penetrated into the compartment. We stayed on deck and watched the Fatherland slowly disappear. Eyes were moist and the women 'searched for their eyes with their aprons.' I asked father how long the trip would last and his reply was 'That's up to God.'

"After a few days at sea, one night a storm arose that made the joints of the ship creak, and tossed everything back and forth. Cooking pots, plates and cups, fortunately all made of tin, flew around in the room! Our trunks slid back and forth. There was the noise of the sea, the tumult and howling of the wind, the running of the sailors overhead.

"Below in our compartment it was pitch black and now seasickness struck. It was a misery that went into us, and we thought our last hour had come. We prayed that God would rescue us, and then toward morning the weather became nice and calm. We thanked God and sang hymns. For the rest of the journey we had church services and the Captain and the sailors often took part.

"Captain Wittung was a splendid man who was especially devoted to us children. He caressed our faces with such tenderness that it touched our hearts. The handling of the passengers and our food was especially good. There was bacon and cured meats, plenty of potatoes, hardtack bread soaked in coffee with butter added, syrup and prunes. The Captain left the old folks and those who were sick have special meals that came from his kitchen. He was a very kind man.

"In the third week at sea there was a cyclone while we were asleep. The ship was whirled round and round and the sailors wanted to fell the masts, when suddenly the storm was over. We celebrated our good fortune with a worship service.

"The Captain had the ship disinfected three times a week to improve sanitation. He often sent soup from his kitchen to my mother who was weak, and he made sure everyone got enough fresh air on deck.

"In the middle of the fifth week at sea we were met by a two-master ship which we children imagined might be pirates. Not true, they were the pilots who would now command the ship through the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Our captain left on the two-master and told us he would meet us in Baltimore and give us the necessary instructions for further travel in America.

"A few more days sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and we arrived in Baltimore. It was September 25, 1843. The joy was universal, and our Captain was true to his word and met us when we docked! We had been at sea for nearly six weeks!

VON BALTIMORE NACH CLEVELAND
or
FROM BALTIMORE TO CLEVELAND

"We saw black people for the first time, other inhabitants sat in their windows and looked at us as we wandered with our packs and sacks. Finally an old German speaking man directed us to the train station.

"The little iron horse was spare and small with belly like a sugar barrel and a neck like a stovepipe and it rumbled and roared. We sat on unplanned benches arranged crossways, some riding forward and some riding backward. There was a roughly knocked together roof to protect us from the sun. 'Oh man, oh man, what is that shrieking and squealing up front?' Someone said, 'Oh, up by the steam engine is a Negro who does the shrieking'. It was the whistle of the locomotive that prompted this remark to us innocents.

"We had been well provided with food, but no beverages. The first time we stopped was at night at a clearing in the woods – no station. The locomotive left us and would return in the morning to continue the journey. Brush was gathered, a fire built, German pancakes made and we had a fine dinner and found water nearby, so that we could make coffee to satisfy our thirst.

"That was the first day, and it was followed by twenty-five more days of travel in America before we reached Cleveland. Luckily, we didn't know that it would take that long or we wouldn't have been so happy!

"The next evening the train stopped again at a great river with a big tunnel bridge over which we had to march for three quarters of an hour in the dark of night to get to the other side of the river. It was necessary to keep the children together and not to panic. When we reached the other side of the

bridge, we found a bright and spacious inn managed by an honest and hospitable man who provided us with bread and sausage and coffee. Some of the women and children slept in bed at the inn.

"The next morning we boarded a canal boat and were squeezed together in a terribly narrow space. By day the men and older children walked on the shore beside the boat and foraged when they had the chance. My father suggested that the biggest and tallest men lay along one side, then followed by smaller men with the boys filling in the gaps. The women had a similar arrangement and we lay squeezed like herring in a tub. There was no sheltering roof, we lay in the open on the deck. My father tied the four little children together with a rope, so that they would not fall into the water or be crushed when we passed the locks.

"After three days on the canal, we came to another railroad which took us through and over the Pennsylvania mountains. There was a cable apparatus that pulled the cars, one at a time, up the mountain, and then lowered the car on the other side. It seemed like a miracle to us children. We then passed through a railroad tunnel and through a mountain.

"The next morning we boarded a canal boat that took us to Pittsburgh. The foraging for food was usually successful, partly because of the kindness of inhabitants along the canals. We lived mostly on bread and apples. This boat was larger and we could stretch out, and finally we came to the smoke city of Pittsburgh, so full of smoke that we could not see the sun!

"We now boarded the third and last canal boat. The boat was heavily loaded with ore and we feared that we might drown. The boat lay very deep and was pulled by a tugboat. We went faster, but we took on water. The men were taken off and on to the tug against the protests of the women; however, thus the boat was lightened and the water pumped out.

"Sorrow struck when a child became ill with dysentery. There was no medicine, only comforting words. She died, was dressed in fine German linen, and with a Christian burial was put to bed in Akron for the last rest.

"We passed through twenty locks in two days and were delighted to know we would be in Cleveland in a few days. The sky was getting cloudy, we had no shelter or protection, but the rain passed over. The last morning of the trip was beautiful and clear as we arrived in Cleveland. We thanked God that he had guided and protected us so well!"

The Ship's Passenger List shows 185 passengers on board the Marianna. There were 26 families with children (29 children were under five years of age) and grandparents, three women with small children joining their spouses already living in America, and three married couples without children. Their occupation was listed and the majority were farmers. Some surnames listed: Kohring, Brinker, Hagemeyer, Burmann, Kuhlmann, Langermans, Weber, Kamper, Niemann, Schroder, Ortmann, Luking, Blasé, Bohning, Bracksieker, Schurman, Tickemeier.

Many of the families on the Marianna knew each other as they came from towns within about a 30 mile area near Osnabruck. All familiar sounding surnames, and we know that the Blasé/Blausey family settled in Woodville and came from Barkhausen. The Bracksieker/Brocksieker family settled near Hessville and came from Merkendorf (Mary Lou Busdiecker's maternal great, great grandparents).

Early census records, ship's records and other documents are often misleading due to fact that the immigrants could not speak English. Also, when families were asked where they were from, their responses were misleading, as some responded with what would be the equivalent to their home town, some their home township or region, or their home state.

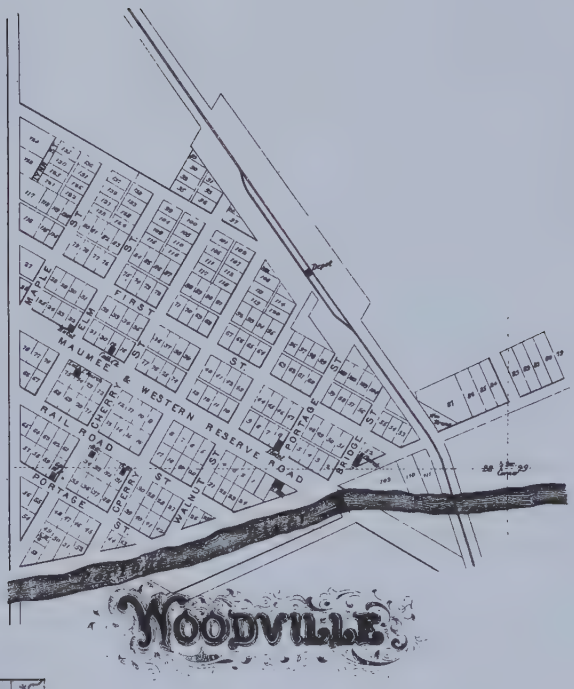
Ernst Bohning's story ends with his arrival in Cleveland. Those who continued on to destinations here in Sandusky County could have been traveling for as long as 80 days or 11 or 12 weeks. Henry Bracksieker was born about two and half months after the family arrived, and there are many references in historical documents to infants that were "borne at sea"....a miracle that they survived.

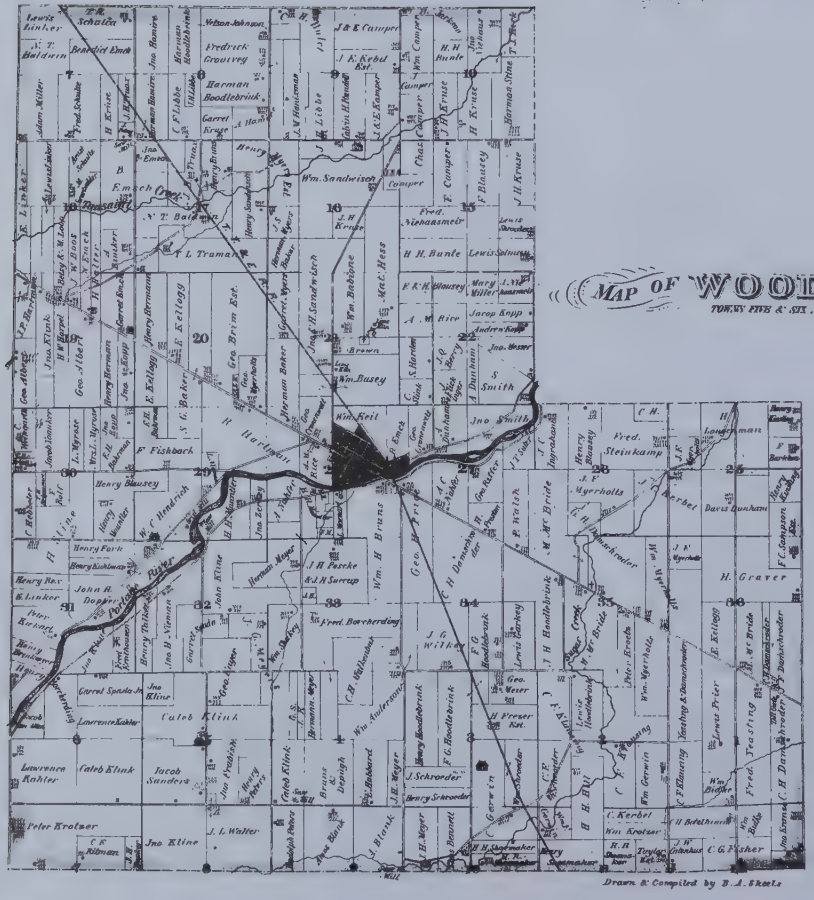
The Town of Woodville - 1874

Note:
Railroad Street
(now College Avenue)

Portage Street near the River
(street never developed)

Maumee & Western Reserve Road
(now Main Street)





Woodville Township- 1874

Landowners are named

Both maps are from an 1874 ATLAS which can be viewed at the Museum.

ORGANIZATION OF WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP

Our area was once unofficially known as Yankee Township. Sandusky County once stretched northward to Lake Erie including what is Ottawa County today. Our immediate area was called Clay Township as the first platting for the Town of Woodville so states.

The present boundary of the township was the result of Sandusky County Commissioner's actions taken April 1, 1840. Woodville Township came into being when Ottawa County was created from the northern sections of Sandusky County. The twelve townships of present day Sandusky County were then formed.

Historians state that the first election of township officials took place in summer 1840 at the Wood Tavern, which stood on land now owned by the Price family on the east end of the village. The following officials were elected:

Trustees	Lester Allen
	Davis Dunham, Sr.
	Archibald Rice
Clerk	Ira Benedict
Justice of the Peace	Ira Benedict and
	Jared Plumb

The first written records are from 1856. There were two trustee meetings concerning a petition from Frederick Wichman for a township road. William Bettinghaus, William Sandwisch and John Camper were appointed as the "jury/viewers" to examine the proposed route. The jury viewed the propriety of the request, reported to the trustees who then approved a road with a 30-foot wide right-of-way. The practice of third party "viewers" continued for many years.

Elections were held on the first Monday in April 1857 with the following results:

Trustees	Francis Fishbeek
	J. H. Meyer
	T. L. Truman
Clerk	Almon Dunham
Treasurer	Frederick Jaeger
Assessor	William Loop
Constables	William Loop and
	J. Burnham

The township was divided into fourteen districts, and the trustees appointed a supervisor for roads in each district. Later records show that the supervisors received $1 per year. If they failed to accept the appointment or failed to act in the capacity of a supervisor, they were fined $2 payable to the General Fund. Taxes levied: ½ mill for roadways and ¼ mill for township purposes.

In the 1860s, elections were probably held at the Elderkin House/Hotel as reference is made to paying J. P. Elderkin the sum of $1 for "room for election." Later elections were moved to Adler's establishment.

The location of ditches and watercourses was a responsibility of the trustees. Sometimes the farmers differed on a suitable location and the distance of their digging responsibility; then the trustees settled the issue. The trustees also had the power to order the farmers along waterways to clean the creeks. In the summer of 1857 a writ was issued to the farmers to clear the brush and remove the logs from Coon Creek and Sugar Creek. Minutes indicate that the trustees would hold their meetings at the home of the farmer who was requesting ditch location, would view the properties involved, and then act on the apportionment of responsibility. There are also historic laboriously handwritten journals with drawings of ditch locations called "Ditch Records."

Minutes of the early 1880s state that the trustees meetings were at the Town Hall (probably the old township hall that sat on Perry Street **in town**). Minutes dated March 14, 1885, approve the purchase of an insurance policy for a one-story shingle and frame building, frame jail, woodshed and tool house situated about 40 ft. west of the Town Hall (We believe that this first jail sat next to the Township Hall on Lot #112 on Perry Street and was built for both the town and township. The village purchased lots from Matthias Faist in 1888 for their town hall, a few years after the dates of the insurance policy).

The development and approval for roadways was the responsibility of the trustees, and actions on the establishment of roads dominate the minutes. The appointment of the District Road Supervisors was of great importance in the development of the township. Landowners petitioned for the building of roadways to serve their neighborhoods. By 1880

there were 17 districts that included the town of Woodville. The Township Trustees were the governing authority before the formation of the Village of Woodville. After incorporation and the organization of the village, the road districts shrunk to 14. The records indicate that local farmers and residents received payment for work done in their immediate area.

In 1894 the township purchased a Western Rock Crusher with mounting for $850. The crusher was specified to be capable of crushing from 10 to 20 tons of rock per hour, and the crusher could be moved from one small quarry to another small quarry.

Maintaining the road equipment and tools was costly, and there are many entries for payments to local blacksmiths for repairing the scraper and plow and tools. The early small bridges were made of plank, and there were many bills submitted for timber.

The trustees levied and managed a fund called the "Relief Fund" for the care of the indigent. The law gave the trustees the power to manage the fund by asking the "poor family" to leave the township. The following is an example of actions documented between the 1850s and 1900s; however, the criteria for what determined a "poor family" is not documented in the minutes:

"The State of Ohio, Sandusky Co., Woodville
To any Constable of Said Township:

Whereas we the overseers of the poor of Woodville Township have received information that there has lately come into said Township, a certain poor family comprising the following named persons (the entire household specifically listed) who are not legal residents thereof and will be likely to become Township charges, you are therefore commanded forthwith to warn the above named persons to depart out of Said Township, and of this warrant make legal service as the law directs.

Given under our hands this 17th day of April, A.D. 1857
By order of the Trustees,
Signed by the township clerk"

And the next minute book entry:

"Served this writ by leaving a certified copy and reading same to (name head of the household of the poor family). Service and mileage – 45 cents.
Signed: (name of constable)...."

An interesting excerpt from Civil War times: "April 9, 1864....the trustees of Woodville Township this day issued three certificates of $100 each as a local bounty to veteran soldiers that reenlisted."

Another responsibility of trustees was the placement of children to indentured service. The agreements were signed by three parties: parent, child and the person who was taking the minor into their home. An example: Parent John places his daughter Sarah with farmer Harman per the following signed agreement that will then be recorded in the Township records.

"Indenture of Apprenticeship between John and Harman and Sarah. Witnesseth: The said Sarah, aged 14 years on the 6th of May in the year 1888, by and with the consent of the said John – her father, hath and doth hereby bind herself as an apprentice unto the said Harman until 6th day of May AD 1892. From date hereof to learn the trade and occupation of a housekeeper to do general housework and the said Sarah by her father doth hereby covenant with said Harman to faithfully serve him and correctly demean herself during the term of her apprenticeship. The said Harman doth hereby covenant with the said John and Sarah and each of them that he will teach Sarah the said trade and occupation, and will provide her during said apprenticeship with meat, lodging, medicine, washing, clothing and all other necessaries suitable for an apprentice and send the said Sarah to a common school for at least twelve weeks in each school year during the apprenticeship. After the said Sarah is 18 years of age and at the expiration of said term of service will furnish said Sarah with a new Bible and two good suits of clothes.

"In testimony whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 5th day of May 1 the year 1888.

Signed: John
Harman
Sarah"

Another excerpt that reflects happenings of yesteryear: "The Trustees authorized the Clerk to issue orders on the Township Treasury for all sparrow eggs delivered to him at the rate of 10 cents per dozen for the year 1889."

Village minutes also have many entries about payments for sparrow eggs and for killing sparrows. The Township Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and management of the cemeteries, township roads and ditches, township zoning, and governance of the fire department and rescue services.

Even today the responsibility for the burial of the indigent still rests with the trustees; however, indenture is no longer practiced.

The trustees held their meetings for many years in the old township hall, a historic building on Perry Street. After the Fire Station was built in 1980, the meetings are now held in the new facility.

A few years later an auction was held for equipment disposal and the Perry Street building was also sold. It was later resold, and is now a small residence located next to the railroad track on Water Street.

The township now employs one person full-time and hires two seasonal employees. There are two maintenance buildings off Route 20 to the east of town. One was built in the late 1960s and the newer building about four years ago.

The late Art Sandwisch was a Woodville Township Trustee for 43 years, a lifetime spent handling the ever changing problems of managing township affairs. Robert Schutz served as the township clerk for 33 years.

Dan Liskai was a township trustee for twenty-one years resigning to begin his first term as a Sandusky County Commissioner. Dan is now in the midst of his second term as a commissioner. Dan was very involved with obtaining the first EMS services, first as a township trustee and now at the county government level. Woodville has not had a local commissioner since Zene Smith served in the early 1970s. (Terry DeRammaleare served briefly as a party's appointee to complete an unexpired term).

The current township trustees are:
Nate Liskai, Chairman (Dan's son)
Robert Schumacher
Robert Schroder
Robin Paul, Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD

The need for zoning of the township was recognized when the trustees established a zoning board in February 1966. The first appointments were: Arthur Nuhfer, Franklin Witmer, William Green, Leonard Harmeyer and Arthur Miller. Robert Schutz served as Secretary of the newly formed Woodville Township Zoning Board.

The unincorporated areas of the township were zoned based on current usage and potential usage and the proposed plan was placed on the ballot at the May primary in 1967 and passed by a large majority.

Part of the zoning plan approved by the voters was the establishment of an Appeals Board. The first zoning inspector was Glenn Linke. Zoning boards continue as a sub-committee of the trustees and the zoning inspector is ultimately accountable to the trustees.

Township Hall - built about 1850
(now home at 290 Water Street)

First Woodville Jail - built about 1884
(now a garage at 800 Water Street)

WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

SUGAR CREEK or COLLINS CEMETERY

The oldest burying ground in Woodville Township is located about two miles east of Woodville on US 20 on the banks of Sugar Creek in Section 35. In 1826 C. B. Collins, who was the grading superintendent for the turnpike, purchased 304 acres in Sections 26 and 35 on the north side of the Maumee & Western Reserve Road. The Collins residence was east of Sugar Creek. When his wife died in 1836, he established a one-acre burial ground on the west side of the creek.

Collins later sold his property and left the area. The cemetery is mentioned in a deed dated 1844 when the estate of John Currier was settled and this ground passed to Michael McBride. The deed was for 143 acres "including one acre appropriated or donated for a public burial ground." In 1862 C. H. Damschroder and wife sold another half acre to the Trustees of Sugar Creek Cemetery (the cemetery was located between property of the Damschroders and the McBride). The cemetery was used by many of the early pioneers and the last burial was Angelina Friar in 1878.

In 1887 the Trustees of Sugar Creek Cemetery turned the cemetery over to the Woodville Township Trustees. Today most of the grave markers have disappeared and only a few burial sites can be identified.

Early tombstone readings were done by Sanford Price and his work was archived with the Woodville Township Trustees. Genealogist Grace Luebke of Elmore identified additional grave sites.

WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP or UNION or GOLDEN HILL CEMETERY

This cemetery is located off Lime Road (CR 30) north of the Village of Woodville. This cemetery was started in 1846 when the infant son of Stephen Brown of Woodville died. It was thought best to bury him near the village and a suitable spot in the woods was selected. In 1847 two more acres were purchased and lots were laid out. Subscriptions from ten cents to a dollar entitled one to ownership of a lot. An additional twelve acres were added in 1882.

The Wood and Price families had a burial plot nearby and in 1875 turned the family burial spot over to the Woodville Cemetery Association. In 1896 George Hagedorn plotted out a piece of ground on the north side of the old Woodville cemetery and named it Gold Hill, and in 1939 this section was turned over to the Cemetery Association. Over the years additional ground has been purchased, thus giving it one of its names – Union.

Early in the development of the cemetery the Township Trustees ordered sand at 50 cents per load hauled from Risingsun to build up the top cover. The cemetery sits on some of the highest ground in the area, and the location preceded by many years the building of the lime plants in the area; however, today the "old cemetery" is surrounded by quarries. The cemetery is reached by a causeway like roadway between the quarries.

An underground vault was built in 1885 by Jacob Bishop (Dorothy Keil's grandfather). This is the mounded area on the right-hand side of the cemetery now used as a storage shed. Bodies were placed in the vault during the winter months and removed for burial in the springtime when the soil was free of frost.

Sometime prior to 1920, a Toledo businessman, George W. Thomas, had the Memorial Mausoleum built. Less than 24 crypts were sold. Due to the deterioration of the building, the bodies were removed in 1997; the caskets were placed in vaults and buried in the Gold Hill section of the cemetery. Pastor William Duty of Solomon Lutheran Church was present for the re-internment. A single monument has been placed marking this site.

Salvaged materials such as the stone pillars, plaques and sign "Woodville Memorial" were used in the construction of a masonry archway at the Lime Road entrance to the cemetery. Mr. Thomas's name and the 1920 date appear on the plaques. The archway was completed in year 2000 and was financed by Martin Marietta Corporation. The village, township, and schools have benefited from the generosity of Martin Marietta's gifts and grants.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY

This cemetery is adjacent to the south side of Union Cemetery and was laid out by Michael McBride. A native of Ireland, Bryan Fay was the first to be buried here on October 8, 1854. The cemetery deed was first held by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish of Genoa, and the majority of the burials were prior to the 1920s, the last was in 1967. The Township Trustees accepted ownership and responsibility for the cemetery in March 1982.

WESTWOOD CEMETERY

In 1956 the Woodville Township Trustees decided to establish another cemetery and approached the Civic Club for assistance. A delegation of three men: Township Trustee Art Sandwisch, Civic Club representative Howard Lang and local funeral director Alton Mollgaard went to Baltimore to the headquarters of Standard Lime & Stone seeking financial help with the project. Standard donated $25,000 for the project, and locally Woodville Lime & Chemical Company agreed to furnish the stone and equipment for the project. The 15 acre cemetery site was acquired from Emil Konesky.

To complete the project more funds were needed and with the corporate gifts and commitment in hand, the trustees went to the voters. Financing for the construction and development of township cemeteries is financed by property taxes and must be approved by the voters. A levy was placed on the ballot and passed. The cemetery is another fine example of corporate gifting, community involvement and voter support. Work continued on the "new cemetery" on SR 582 and it opened in 1959.

The site is beautifully landscaped and well kept. The original plan was designed by Woodville resident Alton Weigel. Space has been reserved in the front part of the cemetery for a chapel and administration building sometime in the future. The first burial was Fred O'Connor on May 21, 1959, the second burial was for Amedeo Defabio on May 25, 1959.

NOTE: Very early sexton's burial records were written on sheepskins that are now at the Museum. The Sandusky County Kin-Hunters compilation of Woodville Township Cemeteries is complete through 1993 and is available at the Museum and the Library.

THE PORTAGE RIVER

In the earliest days the red man, the white trader, hunters and trappers traveled by canoe entering rivers from Lake Erie and starting settlements up the Maumee and Sandusky Rivers. The Carrying River, the early name for the Portage, influenced settlement in our area.

The Portage drains a very large area, and the rains that occur up river in Wood County and Hancock County very much affect the level of the river here in Woodville. The various head streams, creeks and ditches that drain southern Wood County and portions of Hancock County and Henry County as far as Deshler all flow into the branches of the Portage. Two main branches converge at New Rochester and all of this large area's water flows on toward Woodville.

The history of the Portage River includes several major floods. Elmore history states that a high-water mark was established in 1883, but we have no knowledge of what happened here in Woodville.

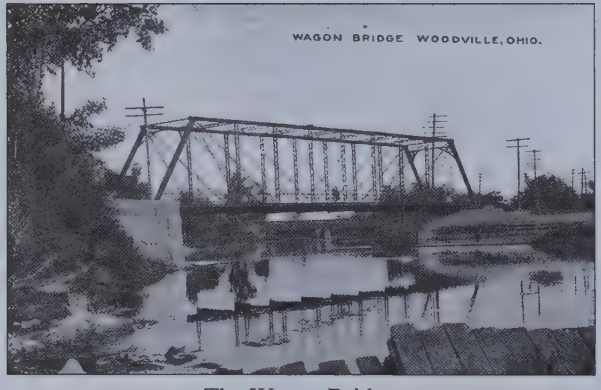
There was major flooding in March 1913, both here in Woodville and on the Sandusky River in Fremont. Locally, the swinging bridge was swept away by the ice and water, as well as the bridge over Victoria Creek on Lueke Avenue, and the eastside of the Route 20 wagon bridge was washed out. There are many pictures of the 1913 flood at the museum.

The flow of the river was restricted by the bridges and the village council asked the railroad to raise their bridge and that eventually was done. The wagon bridge (the steel bridge over the Portage carrying Route 20) was built on an angle to the river shortening the length of the bridge, and the eastside abutment hindered the flow of the river. A new bridge was built in 1933 designed with better water flow.

Notable times of high river water and flooding:

- February 1950 – 10 homes isolated and a few people evacuated,
- February 1968,
- 4th of July 1969 when 9 inches of rain fell – the carnival was washed out and the fireworks were rescheduled,
- August 26, 1998.

1913 Flood
Corner S. Perry & College Avenue



The Wagon Bridge
1878-1933

RIVER BEAUTIFICATION

The Recreation Board and the village council dreamed of building a dam to create waters for boating and recreation. The idea of the removal of an island off CR 117 was also a dream that never materialized; however, there was extensive cleaning of the river through the village and by the island in the fall of 1968.

Equipment and an operator from Glenn Graffice & Son, Inc. spent about 140 hours scraping the riverbed clean of debris. The bulldozer experienced no trouble on the bedrock of the river bottom and pushed the debris, rock and silt onto the riverbanks. Council appropriated $1000 toward the cost, and the Civic Club helped gather private donations of nearly $2000.

The cleaning of the river sparked community spirit! Members of the Volunteer Fire Department cut out dead trees and did their part in the beautification of the river. Later, in 1985 Sandusky County Workfare cleaned areas in and near Trailmarker Park.

In recent years Clarence Geiger has voluntarily cleaned the riverbanks along Findlay Road adding to the beauty of a drive along the river. His work has been commemorated with the placement of a rock with a plaque along the walkway of H. W. Busdiecker Park.

MAIN STREET BRIDGES

The first bridge over the Portage River here in Woodville was a wooden covered bridge. It is not known when it was built; however, it was razed in 1878.

The second bridge was a steel bridge placed at an angle to make a shorter crossing. It was referred to as the "wagon bridge" and was built as a joint venture of the State of Ohio and Sandusky County. The structure cost $4,000 and was used for 55 years.

Construction on the present bridge started in December 1932 and was completed in July 1933. The bridge was built by A. B. Bentley & Company of Toledo at a cost of $65,000 that was funded by the State of Ohio. The village agreed to pay the on-going electricity cost for bridge lighting.

The country was beginning to recover from The Great Depression and the dedication of the new bridge was a major event that was covered by THE TOLEDO BLADE and area newspapers. The Souvenir Program for the August 17th Homecoming and Bridge Dedication lists the Program of the Day as follows:

10:00 AM–Noon Registration former residents
1:00 PM Baseball Game at School grounds
1:30 PM Band Concert & Entertainment in the Park
2:30 PM Get Acquainted Hour at City Park
4:00 PM Dedication Services at the New Bridge
Speaker: Common Pleas Judge A. W. Overmyer of Fremont
5:00 PM Parade of Progress
6:00 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Free Ox Roast
8:00 PM Fancy Drill by the Fire Department
8:30 PM Free Street Dance

John F. Nieman, 81 years old and the second eldest resident of Woodville, cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the new bridge. A History of Woodville written by Mr. Nieman is included in the Souvenir Program book that sold for 10 cents. Mr. Nieman died the following summer in July 1934. (copies of the Souvenir Program are on display at the Museum).

Clubs and organizations and church groups were in the parade depicting community progress from "The Passing of the Indian" to "World War I" and the last float with school children and Boy Scouts was called "Looking Forward" acknowledging that children are the key to the future. W. H. Bruns was chairman of the Program Committee.

Village officials in 1933:

Mayor	August Linkey
Clerk	F. H. Kneip
Treasurer	F. W. Rolf
Councilman	D. H. Bittinger, J. H. Blausey
	W. H. Bruns, Jr., H. A. Karchner
	William H. Kruse, J. A. Stein

A copper box to hold historical keepsakes was fashioned by Herbert Busdiecker. The copper boxes were 12 inches long, 10 inches high and 4 inches wide and soldered shut. Significant items were assembled by Edwin Crane and F. H. Kneip including January 6th and June 23rd issues of the WOODVILLE NEWS and other memorabilia. The box was placed in the concrete at the west end of the bridge.

The bridge underwent complete rebuilding and widening in the fall of 1969, and Sanford Price of the Historical Society was there to remind the contractors of the existence of the Keepsake Box. When it was found it was battered and had been penetrated by a drill and corroded, items were legible but charred. In 1970 when the bridge repairs were nearly completed, another copper box loaded with photos of the community and of the old bridge plus 100 new pennies was sealed once again in the concrete at the east end of the newly revamped bridge.

Findlay Road's approach to Route 20 was also changed during the time of the 1970 bridge repairs making the sweeping turn for safer entry to the main highway and Tear Drop Park was created (see article on Parks).

The bridge was designated The Colonel Henricks Bridge at Welcome Home Festivities in January 1992 honoring Woodville's astronaut hero.

THE FOOT-BRIDGE

The first wooden foot-bridge was privately built sometime in the 1890s connecting Findlay Road residents with a shorter route to the business district. Council records of June 8, 1897 read that George and Henry Mauntler and Louis Meinert requested council take ownership of the privately built footbridge. Ordinance #208 dated October 6, 1897 was titled "An Ordinance to preserve and protect the wire foot-bridge." The bridge swayed when walked upon and it was the joy of youngsters in those days to walk so the bridge would swing....thus the name "swinging bridge." Council minutes mention that the bridge was condemned in 1909; however, it remained in use. The flood in March 1913 took the bridge out!

A replacement foot-bridge was built in late 1913 by J. H. Blausey, Contractor, and designed by William Schepflin of Fremont. The unique structure cost less than $1,000. The bridge would sway and bounce but it was safe. It was built that way!

Woodville residents were very fond of this unique bridge and the memories that it held for us as

little children, remembering being a little frightened of the swing and sway....and the fun of playing in the area of the river. Perhaps when a little older, the memory is of a romantic stroll across the bridge. People have fond memories of when we were younger and when life ran at a little slower pace.

Three families painted the bridge during the Summer of 1969. Ernie and Carol DiMasso, John and Ann Hernandez, and "Satch" and Jean Hernandez gave the bridge two coats both top and bottom of silver and white paint including the cables. It looked great!

However, in the summer of 1972 the bridge was condemned and posted "Bridge Unsafe – Travel at Own Risk". Many in the community wished to save the historic bridge, but after much deliberation by council, it was decided to proceed with plans for a new bridge. On Monday, September 24th the nearly 60 year-old bridge was demolished, thus ending an era of pedestrian foot travel to town and school and church.

There was once another pedestrian bridge across the Portage between Woodville and Elmore at the foot of Opfer-Lentz Road. This bridge was built with a little sway, and some of the piers are still visible today.

First Foot Bridge
1890's - 1913 Flood

NOTE: The second Foot-Bridge is the second ornament in the series of Historical Ornaments.

Second Foot Bridge
1913 - 1972

THE DOROTHY KEIL BRIDGE

In September 1973 the Sandusky County Commissioners advertised for bids for the construction of a new bridge connecting Lueke Avenue to Cherry Street. Woodville would now have two auto bridges over the Portage River, and another way to reach residents in an emergency or if there was a problem on the Route 20 bridge. Work began with construction of new gas and water lines and the completion of an underground and above-water telephone cable.

The new concrete bridge was dedicated on July 4, 1974 and was named The Dorothy Keil Bridge. The Keil family members were among the earlier settlers in the village. Dorothy (b. 7 Oct 1901, d. 28 May 1981) served the Woodville Community for many, many years. She worked as ticket agent for the Lake Shore Electric and when the interurban electric railroad closed, she became the local librarian, serving in this capacity for over thirty years.

Dorothy was also the custodian of the Town Hall and jokingly referred to the six councilmen as her "bosses." In an interview with THE LIMESTONE, she remarked that one of the biggest thrills in her life and an honor that gave her lots of fun, was taking her place on the Book Guild Float and riding down Main Street on the 4th of July as part of the Silver Jubilee parade. (1967 - anniversary of joint sponsorship by Legion and Firemen of the 4th of July Celebrations).

THE VILLAGE OF WOODVILLE

The township trustees organized in 1840 and the first written records found for the township are from 1856. The trustees handled the township, as well as in-town business matters. As the town grew, the town probably started to handle some of their own affairs, but there are no early written records for the Town of Woodville.

The Sandusky County Commissioners acted on a petition for incorporation of the Village of Woodville that was filed on **August 12, 1884** and signed by Dr. Henry Busch, Jonas Keil and J. T. Sivalls. The map that accompanied the petition is recorded in Volume 4, page 161, of Plat Records, and the transcript of proceedings is recorded in Volume A, pages 162-170 held in the Sandusky County Recorder's Office.

The poll book shows that 70 votes were cast at the first election of officials to serve the newly formed Village of Woodville. The result of the **December 22, 1884** vote was as follows:

Mayor	Dr. M. J. Carey
Clerk	John S. Meyer
Treasurer	Henry Bruns, Jr.
Marshal	William Miller
Sealer of Weights & Measures	J. F. Basey
Members of Council	Benedict Emch, John Faler, Rudolph Hartman, B. S. Otten, Henry Schroeder, J. T. Sivalls

Written records start following the incorporation. Minute Books and Ordinance Books have been microfilmed and the film is held by the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University as well as a copy here at the Museum. The original books are held at the Museum. The following excerpts are from the old records:

1884 – 1885 The Beginning

One of the first orders of business was the adoption of the Rules of Order of the Village Council of Genoa.

The first locally adopted ordinances dealt with Disturbance of the Peace, Cruelty to Animals, and the Method for Sidewalk Construction. An ordinance was passed that each able bodied male person between 21 and 55 years of age be required to work two days on the roads and streets or such labor could be commuted by the payment of $2.00. Council agreed to have Rancamp & Company furnish and haul gravel for roads at $2.75 per day.

The township had levied and received taxes that now belonged to the newly formed village, and after committees met and finances were examined, it was agreed that the Village share of previously collected revenue was $105.00. The money was paid out of the township's treasury to the village, and the investigating committees dismissed.

Other early ordinances and actions:

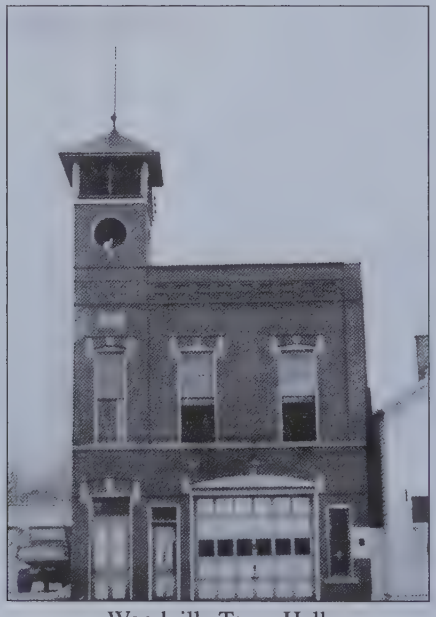
- Taxes levied: ½ mill for general purposes, 1 mill for building purposes, 1 mill for streets and sidewalks, and ½ mill for police = Total levy of 3 mills.
- Control of animals: prohibited horses, mules, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, or geese to run-at-large, nor could they be tied for grazing within the limits of the corporation. Violators would be fined from $1 to $5 and the costs of prosecution.
- Jail: the Township Trustees and the village agreed to build a prison/lock-up on Lot #112 (1874 map shows this lot on Perry Street – Township Hall site), later a bunk and a pillow and tick were added, along with a stove and a supply of wood.
- Liquor Law: all houses, places or shops with in the Village where ale, beer, wine, cider, or any intoxicating liquors are sold shall be closed at 10:00 P.M. and kept closed until 6:00 A.M. (and to remain closed the entire day on the first day of each week, commonly called Sunday). Later action allowed re-opening at 4:00 A.M.
- Locomotives: must ring the bell continuously when on sidings such as the Bruns Spur (spur ran from the railroad and crossed Main Street to serve the Bruns Mill). Trains should not be a hindrance or inconvenience to travel for a period longer than five minutes.

Council also passed ordinances about cutting down trees, carrying firearms and Bowie knives, jumping aboard moving trains, loitering, and being a nuisance at assemblies.

1886 - 1890

Fire apparatus and where to house the equipment was mentioned frequently, and it appears that an agreement was reached to house the equipment next to H. Rancamp's Store on Lot #5 (probably located where Securance Insurance Building now stands). Also, the need for better equipment was often discussed and in 1888 a committee of three councilmen went to Chicago to look at new equipment. Later, there was a motion to locate the new equipment in the stable of Frdk. Gfeller paying $2/month rent.

Council took action to buy a lot from Matthias Faist for a Town Hall (lot was between the blacksmith shop and Mr. Faist's shoe shop). Bids for a Town Hall/Engine House were sought, and the first bids were rejected. Second bids were then sought with J. Faler being the successful bidder. The Town Hall was built in the fall of 1888 at a cost of $2,061 and formerly accepted in 1889. Two loosely organized groups of fire-fighters came before council, the Woodville Fire Engine Company and the Woodville Hook & Ladder group. Council recognized and began to work with the Woodville Fire Company #1 and all equipment was consolidated. Rubber coats were purchased for the firemen and equipment moved into the new firehouse. Specifications for building fire cisterns located around the town were discussed and built during these years.



Woodville Town Hall
1888-1951

A Village Board of Health was established in October 1889. There are references throughout old records about paying doctors a fee for fumigating homes as directed by the local Woodville Board of Health.

There were many entries in the minutes concerning the approvals for right-of-ways, sidewalks and the routes of sewers and method of assessment for these improvements.

1891-1895

In 1891 the Pennsylvania Railroad was asked to drain all ponds, apparently they did not do so, and in 1892 council granted them thirty days to comply with the Board of Health edict. Several residents were required to drain off and fill areas of stagnant water. Some of the first sewers were wooden, and in 1892 the minutes specify "tile sewers." Some of the original wooden sidewalks were condemned and had to be replaced and there was much discussion about how this was to be done.

In the early 1890s, council acted that "no dancing" could take place in the City Hall. Then in 1892 council reversed the previous action and agreed to charge $8 per night when the hall was used for dancing.

Other early ordinances:

- June 1889 – council granted permission to G. H. & L. C. VanVleck the right to lay pipes for the purpose of transporting natural or fuel gas.
- May 1892 - granted Ohio Telephone & Telegraph Company permission to construct poles and wires
- Oct 1892 – granted Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Company permission to lay, maintain and operate in the Village of Woodville.
- August 1893 – granted permission for Postal Telegraph to set poles and fixtures.
- Property owners were required to mow down "vegetable growth" in the streets, public highways and alleys as well as their own property, or be fined.
- Drilling oil wells in town was declared a nuisance in May 1893. A later ordinance passed stating that a well must be 200 ft. from structures.
- Boys will be boys! An early ordinance was passed to make it illegal to hop trains, and an

1894 ordinance made it illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalk. It was also deemed illegal to sell liquor to minors and to entice them to gamble.

- April 1895 – purchased Western road scraper with floating blade - $235.
- Council adopted rules for storing and hauling of nitroglycerine.

The minutes became much more lengthy and mention routine business matters. A weakness in old records is that there is no follow-up as to whether or not an action was finalized. For example: it is unknown whether or not the Telephone and Telegraph Companies actually followed through.

In the very first years notices and ordinances were posted at several locations around town (outside public buildings, in the saloons and stores - at five prominent locations around the town). In 1895, a new era began when notices were published in the town newspaper.

More fire cisterns were built around the town and some of the earlier cisterns were improved. Also, several wells were drilled at strategic locations for fire purposes.

Drainage was a problem on Main Street (the pathway for the Maumee & Western Turnpike route) and council approved an open gutter constructed of cobblestone or brick to drain into the existing sewers. Hopping over the open drainage ditch was an accomplishment that was often mentioned by old timers who lived in this era.

Ordinance #158 was passed in January 1895 having 40 sections that re-stated actions previously taken as well as adopting a model of governance for the effectual preservation of peace and good order in the village (21 pages of handwritten do's and don'ts and the fines that could be charged – it was published in THE NEWS).

1896-1904

In 1896, a concern of the Board of Health was what to do with swills, garbage, night soil and dead animals. A dumping ground was discussed, but no firm details were given. Imagine what sanitation was like, what did they do? Later, in 1902 council gave the Board of Health authority to seek a dumping ground. (Twenty-five years later the District Health Officer, a delegation of citizens, and the Township Trustees attended a council meeting to discuss the dump).

Council took action to ask for voter support for the building of a light plant. The voters approved the request in May 1896 and plans proceeded (see article on Utilities & Services). Council agreed that street lamps should burn until 2:00 A.M. except when there was moonlight.

New buildings were being constructed replacing earlier structures, and council acted on owner's plans for moving the old structures. Some of the earliest buildings were now 50 to 60 years old.

Woodville sent prisoners to the Toledo Work House and the Village paid fees to Toledo for the services provided.

Millage levied in 1898 has risen to 11 mills, part of the increase was to pay for the light plant.

January 1899: Council approved lights for the schoolhouse; however, the school board was required to pay for the wiring.

April 1899: Insuring the new light plant became an issue with various agents desiring the business. Locally, C. C. Layman bids, was not the successful bidder, and sued the council. Council acted to retain lawyers to defend their position. An out-of-court settlement was reached two years later - $25.00 was paid to C. C. Layman by the village.

May 1899: Council approved an application from Samuel F. Angus and Henry A. Haigh to start a street railroad – The Toledo, Fremont & Norwalk.

August 1899: Council approved an application from Central Union Telephone Company to set poles and start a phone company.

Council acted in 1901 to grant permission to The Lake Erie, Bowling Green and Napoleon Street Railroad and the Lake Shore Electric Railway Company to operate within the village (see story on Electric Railroads/Street Cars).

There was on-going discussion about Maple Street and the plats and numbering system. There were several plats made and filed, and the numbering system changed leading to much confusion. The desire was to have Maple Street connect from First Street to the railroad; however, this plan never

came to pass. Maple Street remains a dead-end street.

In 1903 the clerk's salary was set at $75.00/year, and Trustees of Public Affairs received $4.00/year.

Alley right-of-ways were an ongoing topic of discussion, as residents had built their outbuildings and privies on the alleys, and were requested to move them as alleys were forcefully developed.

Building sidewalks was discussed at almost every meeting, and the minutes were beginning to describe walks of flagstone. Many of the flagstone walks are still around town. Earlier sidewalks were made of wooden plank.

1905-1920

The Pennsylvania Railroad wanted to raise the train bridge that would also include raising the grade on road crossings. This council strongly resisted, and a surveyor was employed by the council to support their position. Grades and elevations were frequently discussed in the process of development of new streets and sewers and as improvements were made.

1905: Paving Main Street was being discussed, 50 ft. wide in the business area, and 35 ft. wide in residential areas and the property owners and business owners were to pay an assessment and bonds were also sold. The total project cost $26,000 with the work to be performed by Hanlon Construction from Cleveland.

1906: Bonds were sold and property owners paid assessments for a major sewer project – the First Street and many side tie-in sewers.

1913: A special census was conducted – 1009 residents in the village.

Sept 1915: The first ordinance dealing with motorized vehicles was approved. Vehicles were to be driven from the right-hand side, no excess exhaust or loud noises were allowed, and must abide by the laws of the State of Ohio. Council also wanted alarm signals at the railroad crossings.

1916-1918: Improvements were made to First Street, Elm Street and the renamed College Avenue (had been Railroad Street).

Apr 1918: An ordinance was passed setting the hours for Pool Halls and Bowling Alleys – open at 5 P.M. and close by 10 P.M.

1921-1930

1922: Victoria Heights allotment was accepted into the village, and newly developed Erie Street was named. Speed Laws were set: not more than 15 MPH in business district, not more than 25 MPH in residential areas, fines were from $25 to $100. Selling more gasoline prompted the need for underground storage tanks, and council acted on the placement of the tanks at the Woodville Garage and at Neusies Repair & Filling Station.

1923: The village purchased the vacated school grounds on First Street financed by the sale of bonds. A village water system was first taken to the voters in 1914 and in 1917 and became reality at this location in 1929 (see article on Utilities & Services).

Otis Bittinger retired from the clerk's position having served for 30 years.

1925: An expansive lengthy ordinance was adopted to regulate motor vehicles. It was deemed an emergency measure and became effective immediately due to the dangerous and congested condition of travel on the streets of the village!

1927: It was illegal to allow dogs to run freely and owners were to be fined from $1 to $5 for violation of the ordinance.

June 1927: Ohio Fuel Gas Company was granted rights to construct gas lines, and rates were agreed upon.

August 1927: The paving of Walnut Street was discussed, but wasn't accomplished until 1929.

1929: Speed laws were adjusted: not more than 20 MPH in business district, not more than 35 MPH in residential areas, with stiffer fines for each offense.

March 1930: In the days of Prohibition, council passed an ordinance prohibiting all intoxicating liquors in public places and passed another ordinance with severe penalties for drunken driving.

1931-1933
Council appealed to all employees and to the Water Plant Trustees to use "strict economics" because tax revenue was lower and funds were short because of the depression.

An agreement was made for trash hauling at 75 cents per hour for both truck and driver.

Proposals for the new Route 20 Bridge were discussed and welcomed by all. The bridge building would be funded by The State of Ohio, but village council did have input into the process.

Three term Mayor Gus Linkey bid farewell to council having served through the very difficult years of the depression and the start of the recovery. Mr. Linkey welcomed the newly elected officials.

(Times were changing rapidly and the minutes were now being typewritten).

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS – 1884 to 1933
Mayors of the Village of Woodville and their years of service are as follows:

Dr. M. J. Carey	1884-Mar 1885
Henry Rancamp	Apr 1885-Mar 1887
W. H. Bruns	Apr 1887-Mar 1893
D. H. Bittinger	Apr 1893-Mar 1894
Dr. R. M. Durbin	Apr 1894-Mar 1897
F. Sandwisch	Apr 1897-Mar 1901
John F. Nieman	Apr 1901-Dec 1907
L. H. Hartman	1908-1913
Fred L. Mauntler	1914-1917
Dr. F. G. Blanchard	1918-1919
Herman F. Blausey	1920-1921
Dr. F. G. Blanchard	1922-1923
Prof. C. C. Robinson	1924-1927
August G. Linkey	1928-1933

A modern bridge had been completed over the Portage River. Natural gas, water, electricity, telephones - all these services were now available. At this time most families had acquired an automobile, and a new age had arrived.

1934 – 1945
Excerpts from the minute book of the village council:

March 1934: Council discussed the problem of the streetcar tracks on Main Street and that they should be removed. They were finally removed in the summer of 1938 as the LEBG&N railroad had folded.

March 1935: The clerk was directed to place a notice in THE NEWS warning parents and children about the danger of playing in the streets, especially shinny with tin cans. Stop at once or council will take action!

May 1935: E. J. Reimer resigned as Marshall and Norman Raberg was appointed to complete the term.

Summer 1935: Walnut Street was roped off by the City Park for a Social.

1935-1936: Local projects were completed with workers from the WPA (Works Progress Administration – a federal program offering work for the unemployed). A sewer project for the Victoria Heights area was agreed upon with the WPA Administrator, and local residents were required to raise $1200 as their share of the project. A crossing guard was hired at the school through the WPA. Council asked the state for traffic lights – no actions taken.

February 1937: Lake Shore Coach Lines received approval for bus service through Woodville. The end of the street railroads was fast approaching.

1939: The need for a new town hall was a reoccurring item of discussion and grant money was sought from the state. The need for sewer work and updating the waterworks overshadowed the need for a new town hall. Also, World War II changed priorities, the Town Hall was not built until 1951.

1941: Standard Oil no longer needed the rail spur that crossed Main Street and it was removed from Bridge Street to First Street. A few years later, Norman Viers was ordered to remove the remaining railroad spur on Bridge Street between First and the railroad.

1942: The Police Department was organized and a shortwave radio was purchased for $41.03 for the new department. Norman Raberg was named the Chief of Police.

1941-1945 The War Years: The Woodville Civil Defense Unit was formed that included local police

officers and residents. An emergency ordinance was adopted for Blackout and Air Raid Protection Orders.

There was also a Rationing Board that handled the local distribution of ration books. Gasoline was rationed with A, B & C card designations. For example: C cards were for doctors, B for farmers who used their cars to haul grain to the elevator, etc. and A cards with very limited gas allowances for the rest of the population. Meat and sugar was also rationed and many foods were in short supply. White margarine (oleo) replaced butter. To make the oleo appear more like butter, a yellow color pellet was mixed into it. It still did not taste like butter!

November 1943: The first police car was purchased based on the following bids:

Gerald H. Coen – 1939 Dodge Sedan - $750
John K. Faist – 1940 Pontiac - $940
Stony Ridge Garage – 1941 car - $1,035

The used 1939 Dodge was selected. Automobiles were very difficult to find due to the war effort.

1945 – World War II was over! Council authorized the building of a garage and tool building on Cherry Street near the river. The Fire Department purchased and donated several lots on Erie and Cherry Street to be a public playground. Council purchased two more lots from Oscar Meyerholtz in the same vicinity, and this was the start of what is today the east side of Trailmarker Park where the shelter house, tennis court and swimming pool are now located.

Each year council acted to renew a contract for fire protection for Woodville Township for a one-year period.

Every spring council designated Spring Clean-Up days and made arrangements to haul away trash and debris. (see article on Utilities & Services).

1946-1970 Years of Progress

In October 1946 a Planning Commission was appointed as per guidelines in Ohio Revised Code, and in November 1947 a Zoning Ordinance was adopted. This was a timely council action as World War II veterans returned and started to build homes.

There were several annexations to the village in the early 1950s. Existing housing and business areas on US 20 and along Lime Road were annexed.

By the mid 1950s new subdivisions were being developed; such as Grandview Allotment off Pemberville Road, the Hartman addition opened College Avenue and Erie Streets to SR 105, the Slates addition added Riverview Drive (the big circle and the little circle), Water Street grew toward Elmore.

The cornerstone was laid for a new Town Hall on May 30, 1951 with a copper box behind it full of village pictures and memorabilia. The so-called "new Town Hall" is now 52 years old! The Fire Department was housed here until the new station was built in 1980. The Police Department and clerk's office are still in this building.

In 1959 the Street Department moved into a new building on Cherry Street that replaced an old barn that they had been using for their equipment.

The Civil Defense group started in 1941 was phased out in early 1963.

Another civilian group called Operation Sky Watch was formed in 1953 as recommended by the US Army. Del Meyers was named as chairman of the 40 member volunteer group. The sky watch station sat on the top of the Town Hall and the army asked that it be manned at least part-time. Following the Korean War and when the nation was once again at peace, the group was disbanded.

The Police Department was becoming more organized and more officers were added and by 1953 the staff had increased to the Chief plus two full-time officers. A card index file was started listing all arrests back to the early 1930s. Traffic on Route 20 was increasing and the widening of the road was often discussed as it still is today.

State Highway Patrol arrests at the weigh station at Hessville and on the Ohio Turnpike were heard in Mayor's Court in Woodville. Over half of the fines and costs went into village funds and the balance was sent to the state. This money added a big boost to the village budget. Woodville was a bonding station for the Highway Patrol, but the advent of the County Court System changed the process. Mayor's Court continued hearing local cases, but the era of the Highway Patrol cases ended.

Chief Norman "Gummy" Raberg retired in 1960 after 25 years of service. He was given this

nickname because of his fondness for children, and he gave them chewing gum!

1971 - TODAY

Another major change occurred in May 2000 when Mayor's Court was completely eliminated.

Ohio Laws allow mayors to perform marriages within the county, and several of our past mayors have performed marriages here in the town park and also at Spiegel Grove in Fremont.

"Pup", the Police Department's first drug dog worked with Chief Frye in the 1970s. Today "Bruno" is working with Officer Chris Meinke. Bruno is here as a result of a successful fund raising project. The Community Service Organization donated $500 and local residents covered the balance of the costs.

Today's Police Department is structured with the Chief of Police, sergeant, and two full-time officers. Another major change in village operations was the completion in the summer of 2002 of the new maintenance building on Lime Road. Prior to the completion of this new facility, village utility trucks and equipment were scattered at several locations around the town. Now Village Administrator Bob Rickard has his office at this location overseeing the staff of six employees who maintain the light, water and sewer services.

New Utility Department Building
530 Lime Road

The Street Department also works out of the new building. The building on Cherry Street by the park is now being used to house off-season street equipment and to store supplies and equipment used for the 4th of July celebrations.

Mayors who have served from 1934 to the present:

Waldon Schepman	1934-1937
John Kruse	1938-1939
Harry Karchner	1940-1949
H. W. Busdiecker	1950-1963
Dallas Porter	1964-1965
Walter Kruse	1966-1967
H. W. Busdiecker	1968-1971
John Florio	1972 to July 5, 1976
Robert Meyer	July 6, 1976 -1982
Richard A. Harman	1983-1999
Jan Busdeker	2000 to Jan 31, 2003
Robert Meyer	Feb. 1, 2003 -

Council today continues to deal with the increasing traffic on Route 20, and with the Main Street bridge repairs to be done in the very near future and how this will impact the village. Council governs the maintenance of streets and the operation of the Police Department, as well as working with the Board of Public Affairs on the management of village utilities.

The village has several committees that are appointed by the mayor: A Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Tree Commission, and Recreation Board.

Village council, village clerk-treasurer and the Board of Public Affairs are elected positions.

Council members are as follows:

Ken Glassford	Gerald Kepus
Margaret Linke	Robert Meyer*
Joe Riffle	Jeff Tate

Clerk-Treasurer – Elizabeth Zajac

*As president of council Mr. Meyer will complete the term of Jan Busdeker who resigned effective January 31st.

The Board of Public Affairs members are as follows:

Kermit Hoesman
Scott Schneider
Robert Snyder

Village services have expanded to meet the changes in housing that began with the building of two-unit apartments at various places in the late 1960s that was soon followed by the two story apartments at the west end of town between College and Erie Streets. Additional single story apartments were built along West College Avenue and Tanglewood Landings Apartments were built in the Victoria Heights. In the 1990s condominiums were developed between Findlay Road and Brookside Drive. Woodpointe sub-division opened with both condominiums and single-family dwellings located off SR 105 toward Pemberville, and Endeavor's Landing sub-division opened off Borcherding Road.

A few census statistics are as follows:

October 10, 1913	1,009
December 1, 1930	1,151
June 1, 1986	2,011
2000	1,977

No doubt a census taken in 2003 would show growth beyond the 2000 statistic due to the continuing growth in housing as we move into the 21st century.

The Village of Woodville and Woodville Township – a great place to live! We look back with pride in the contribution of our heritage, and we look forward with great anticipation to the decades to follow.

WOODVILLE TREE COMMITTEE

A Shadetree Committee was formed in 1975 and was the forerunner of the present day Tree Committee. The goal of the Tree Committee is to plant two trees for every one that is removed.

An Arbor Day Ceremony is held in April with students from Woodmore and Solomon Lutheran reading poems and stories that they have written, songs are sung, and new trees are planted.

Other activities include a pruning seminar, tree-trimming, adopt-a-tree program, and the committee maintains a running list of the trees that need attention. The village funds the activities of the Tree Committee.

Charter members: Jan Little, Chairman, Norm and Dee Avers, Lois and Atwell Gilmore, Dale Wax, Delores Rarig, Wilbur Hesselbart, Kermit Hoesman, and Teresa and Bill McGinnis.

Woodville received their first Tree City USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation in April 1992.

Lee Garling is currently the chairman of the committee and Neal Schmeltz, Tom Bloom and Perry Jacobs are committee members working for the continuing beautification of our town.

WOODVILLE VISIONING COMMITTEE

Former Mayor Jan Busdeker organized this committee in August 2000 with the goal of developing long-term "visions" for the good of the community. The need for additional parking has been an item of discussion with the possibility of Off-Main Street parking behind the businesses (entering from South Walnut Street). In anticipation of the coming Route 20 bridgework, the development of a walkway from the park to the bridge has been discussed.

The Visioning Committee has sponsored Business Appreciation Breakfasts, concerts in the park, a "Vision Woodville" photo contest, the first All American Festival, and Holiday Tours of local homes and churches.

UTILITIES & SERVICES

ELECTRIC SERVICE

In May 1896 voters approved the construction of an electric light works and the sale of bonds to finance the project. In addition to monies that could be transferred from other funds, bonds were to be issued not to exceed $10,000. Council immediately acted to employ an engineering firm to prepare final plans and advertise for bids. And so it was that Woodville built its own electric generating plant to provide electric lights throughout the village. The light plant was located on Bridge Street near the elevator.

Henry and J. H. Rohtert soon wired several homes. Churches and the schoolhouse received power on special rates based on their actual metered usage while others paid on a flat rate structure. Electric

Light Trustees were named and Henry Rohtert was employed as the first Light Superintendent at $75.00 per month.

Then on September 27, 1911 the Board of Public Affairs recommended to Council that the village buy its electricity from an outside source. It was determined that it was more economical to purchase electric power than to produce it. Council concurred and power was purchased from the Lake Shore Electric Railway Company and distributed through the village owned lines. Later this firm was known as Lake Erie Power & Light Company. Since that time the village has purchased its electricity based on competitive bidding. Today, in 2003, Woodville buys electric power through The American Municipal Power-Ohio, Inc.

Woodville's first decorative streetlights were put up in 1933, and the current lighting was erected in 1967 at the time of the widening of Route 20.

In 2002 a new substation was built by the village, located next to the new village maintenance building at the north corporation limits on Lime Road. Distribution charges that had formerly been paid to Toledo Edison (First Energy) were no longer in effect. Additionally, the design of the new substation should handle at least 15 years of growth.

Woodville's first underground electric service has been completed in the Woodpointe and Endeavor Landings sub-divisions.

WATER PLANT

In 1929 after two earlier failed attempts in 1914 and 1917, the voters finally approved a water supply and distribution system to be financed by bonds and property assessments. The water plant was located on the alley between North Walnut and North Perry Streets. This land was purchased in 1923 when the school was torn down. This system consisted of two drilled wells, a lime-soda ash softening plant, a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank, and the buried pipes for complete distribution. A third well was drilled in 1938 and in 1942 the water softening plant was expanded. A fourth well was added to the system in 1948. Several additions and alterations have taken place since 1948. Today, there are eight wells; however, the #3 well proved to be unproductive and is now only used to monitor the water table.

Planning for a new water treatment plant began in 1974 and construction of the new plant was finished in September of 1983 next to the old plant, but facing Perry Street. The capacity of the new plant is 1,000,000 gallons per day and the total construction cost was approximately $1.2 million dollars. The Village financed the water plant improvements through revenue bonds with revenue derived from an increase in the water rate structure.

The new plant was formally dedicated in 1984 to the memory of Mr. John Roper who was a 24-year member of the Board of Public Affairs. During this period he was instrumental in the planning and construction of the existing sewer system, the initial planning for the new water plant, and many other projects for the betterment of the community.

Since 1983, much of the activity in the Water Department has been along the lines of maintenance and repair. Because the building housing the old water plant was obsolete and falling into disrepair, it was razed in 2002.

Water lines have been extended for the several new residential additions in the village. Also, several new waterline loops have been created to improve the flow to areas having low water pressure. This work will continue to eventually eliminate all dead-end water lines.

Water Plant
Back of Veterans Memorial Park

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Old council minutes have on-going actions about the building and location of sewers. Some of the very earliest sewers were wooden and later replaced by "tile" sewers. In October 1926 a lengthy ordinance was passed regulating sewers. "No new sewer connection shall be made into any sewer for the purpose of sanitary drainage, except that the same be first made to discharge into a septic tank or vault of the type or style approved by the State Department of Health." Later in 1951 council acted on an ordinance declaring privies and privy vaults to be a nuisance. A fine would be assessed for not having indoor plumbing and a septic system.

In later years State Health Department regulations outlawed the use of septic tanks that at times of high-water flow allowed untreated affluents into waterways. Cities and towns were forced into making changes in their sewer systems. In 1967 council employed Floyd G. Browne & Associates of Marion, OH as consultants to develop plans for compliance with regulations and to develop plans for sewerage treatment.

The town's plans for an aerated lagoon process were approved by the State Health Department. In June 1969 council took action to establish sewer rates based on water consumption, to approve an assessment on property that was charged to tax bills, and approve the sale of bonds to fund the project.

Ground was purchased for the lagoon site from Adlia Niehausmyer along South River Road not far from the corporation limits. Glenn Graffice & Son, Inc. dug the lagoon, Plumley Construction Company was the General Contractor for the digging and laying of the new sewers and construction of lift stations. The work was completed by the fall of 1969. All septic tanks were pumped and filled with stone. This completed Phase I of the project.

The Environmental Protection Agency has continued to make demands on the Village to improve the sewage system. In order to meet these demands various projects were undertaken. Among these projects was the addition of flap gates on the overflows to the river. Most recently, the most extensive and expensive project was the completion of an additional lagoon with added aerators and improvements to the control room. While these measures have been helpful in appeasing the EPA, nothing short of completely separating sanitary and storm sewers will be a satisfactory solution to Woodville's Sewage System. At the close of 2002, the Village Council approved making a study for the completion of a sewer separation master plan. Looking ahead, it would appear that in the near future, steps must be taken to follow such a plan.

GARBAGE/REFUSE SERVICE/YARD WASTE

Handling of trash and refuse was an on-going problem and mentioned many, many times in village council minutes. The first garbage routes were private arrangements between households and the garbage collector. In 1939 council received a formal proposal for garbage service for the town and tabled the proposal. In 1941 representatives of the The Garden Club urged council to act on garbage collection, and the council suggested a service; however, residents were to make their payments directly to the garbage collector.

Every spring council designated Spring Clean-Up days and used town equipment to haul trash to the dump. There were authorized town dumps at the foot of Perry Street and at the foot of Walnut Street toward the river, and even later along SR 105 near SR 582 along the river. By 1943 there were rules and regulations adopted concerning the dumps. During the years when incinerators were allowed, the town's incinerator was east of Walnut Street near the river.

The first council action for a village wide garbage collection system was in 1946, and by the following year an expansive ordinance had been developed on rules and regulations of garbage services, and the tag system was started. Since that time garbage service is through a contractual agreement governed by village council. Curbside recycling started in August 1990 and has been a model for other area towns. Residents are charged $7.30 per month for services.

Today we have the convenience of a vegetation waste dump managed by the village along Findlay Road at the east edge of town. For this service residents are charged $.50 per month.

TELEPHONES

In 1896 council granted permission to Harrison Noble to put up poles and wires for a phone system. In 1899 Central Union Telephone Company was also granted permission to start a phone service. In 1900 council granted Clyde Construction Company permission to put up poles and lines that were to be maintained for twenty-five years. In 1909 Lemoyne Telephone Company was also granted permission to start a phone service.

It is known that in 1909 there were two companies operating in Woodville. The Home Telephone Company (which was probably a successor to one of the first three mentioned above) and The Lemoyne Telephone Company. Mabel Knierim Hoesman and Ruth Webb Clark were operators for the Home Telephone Company. Lois Meyer Ryan, Edith Stahler DeAngelis, Louise Krueger Spada and Carrie Rolf were operators for the Lemoyne Telephone Company. Bills from Lemoyne Telephone were paid at the residence of Martha Rust. Resident phones cost $1.00 per month and business phones were $1.50 per month.

The Lemoyne Telephone Company became part of United Telephone Company in 1967. The service area was very limited and most out-of-town calls were long distance. In 1986 Council President Ron Saam organized a plan with the aim of obtaining toll-free calling to surrounding communities and Toledo. In 1989 we did receive significant rate reductions.

United Telephone was bought out by SPRINT and services and equipment were updated; however, most calls were still long distance. Phil Terisigni organized a campaign to restructure Woodville's toll-free calling area and local resident's testimonies and complaints were heard at a PUCO hearing in April 1999. A new toll-free calling area was approved in October 1999. Woodville residents can now call most of the surrounding towns, including Elmore where the High School is located, and most Toledo exchanges are toll-free.

NATURAL GAS SERVICE

In 1899 council granted permission to G. H. & L. C. VanVleck to lay pipes for the purpose of transporting natural or fuel gas. In 1892 Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Company was granted permission to maintain and operate gas service. It is unknown as to when or which of the above companies actually did provide service.

In 1927 Ohio Fuel Gas Company was granted the right to construct gas lines and rates are agreed upon. Ohio Fuel was the predecessor of Columbia Gas Company who was the deliverer of service based on rates negotiated by council. In recent years, the "Provider of Choice" program allows the consumer to choose the gas provider as delivered through Columbia's lines.

"River Scene, Woodville, Ohio" a picture post card taken in early 1900s from the train bridge looking toward the "wagon bridge" on Route 20. The steeple is on the German Methodist Church that once stood at the site of present day motel.

PARKS & RECREATION

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
(formerly Waterworks Park)

This park is on First Street between Walnut and Perry Streets and was once the site of Woodville Public Schools. There were probably two structures here at one time housing an elementary school, and in the 1870s the second building went up that housed the first high school. The school moved to the present site on Main Street in the fall of 1923 and the two older buildings on First Street were demolished.

The Doughboy statue and accompanying monument is located at the east end of the open space near Walnut Street. It was erected by The Exchange Club of Woodville and dedicated in 1927. (more detail – see article on The American Legion Memorial)

This space became known as Waterworks Park because #1 Water Well, the water tower and the water treatment plant is located here. At one time in the late 1930s and early 1940s there was a fish pond near the pump house, and the park was and today is still used as a play area for various ballgames. The concrete surface of Walnut Street was also the best place in town to roller skate. In more recent years the area became known as Veterans Memorial Park.

TRAILMARKER PARK
(formerly Riverside Park)

In 1945 the Legion and Firemen purchased ground from the Sandwisch heirs for the purpose of developing a community park. The land was on Erie Street and east of Cherry Street along the river. Village council purchased two more lots in the same area. At this time the Oscar Meyerholtz home was sitting where the pool house sits today, an older Scout Cabin was along Erie Street and most of the other area was low lying and full of weeds. The area at the end of Walnut Street toward the river was the town dump.

Many volunteer hours were spent in cleaning up the area. Equipment from the lime plants was used for hauling in dirt and stone that was donated by the plants to raise the grade.

Mayor Karchner appointed the first nine-member Park Board in September 1946. They were: William Kruse, Leonard Obermyer, and Luther Miller representing the Fire Department; Earl Blausey, Irvin Kaemming and William DeWyre representing the American Legion; Carl Zehner and Glen Haas from Civic Club; and H. W. Busdiecker who represented the village council.

By 1948 the park was taking shape with picnic tables and playground equipment. The old Boy Scout building came down and was replaced by the cement building and ready to use in early 1949. However, Cherry Street ended at the park and the swinging bridge was still in use with a slightly elevated narrow path that led toward town.

In 1949 the village purchased 10 additional acres of river property west of Cherry Street from Verna Blausey. In the mid-1950s more ground was purchased from Miss Blausey and the park grew to what we see today. Other improvements followed when a shelter house and tennis courts were built.

As the park developed and to celebrate the beautification of the river, Franklin Witmer and Sanford Price organized the Jack Frost River Race which started in the park and terminated at Franklin Witmer's home (now John Emch home off SR 105.) This was in the late 1960s and a three-time winner of the rowboat heat was young Jim Beam.

An ancient hackberry tree was first noticed when the river cleaning work was being done. As brush and debris was cleared near the Foot Bridge, the tree with two bent limbs pointing southward across the river was discovered. Sanford Price called in experts on Indian affairs, and they felt the tree was an Indian Trail Marker Tree. The following marker was placed on the tree:

> Indians lived in this area until 1817. They marked forest trails by bending young trees to point the way. This ancient hackberry tree, bent when young, points to a shallow crossing of the Portage River.

On Memorial Day in 1969 in this picturesque setting, the marker for the old tree was dedicated.

The first 4th of July Celebration at Riverside Park was in 1953 (Ohio's Sesquicentennial) and the crowds continued to come to Woodville for the annual observance now in the new location.

The Community Swimming Pool opened on July 4, 1967. (see article on Swimming Pool) and changes continued in the park area. The Meyerholtz house was moved to the middle of the block across from the pool on Erie Street.

The completion of the Dorothy Keil Bridge in 1972 made access to the park easier as Cherry Street now extended over the river, and additional parking became available near the shelter house and the park.

The park is the site of a Woodville tradition that began in 1976 when the first Community Church Service was held on the Sunday preceding the 4th of July Celebration. All of Woodville's clergy take part in the service with music provided by various choirs and local singers.

The Kiwanis Club helped organize the Community Church Service, as well as a Chicken BBQ that followed. The Kiwanis Club has disbanded; however, the BBQ continues sponsored by Pony League Baseball Teams.

The American Legion and Council along with a Martin Marietta Grant put up the gazebo that stands at the corner of Cherry and Erie Streets at the edge of the park. Ernie DiMasso was the chairman of the project along with many volunteers. The Garden Club did the landscaping and furnished the shrubs and flowers. The gazebo was dedicated on July 1, 1987.

Time and the elements took their toll on the gazebo and it was refurbished in 1994 and rededicated "to the community, by the community, in memory of Ernie DiMasso" who had provided the leadership to have the gazebo built.

There are continuing improvements to Trailmarker Park as trees are planted in memory of local citizens and events, another shelter house was constructed in the west end of the park, benches, new restrooms, and a blacktopped pathway have been added. The Garden Club continues to plant flowers and shrubs to beautify public areas.

The dump at the foot of Walnut Street is long gone and the open area along the river east of the swimming pool has been cleaned up giving an unobstructed view of the river.

H. W. BUSDIECKER PARK (formerly Kiwanis Tear Drop Park)

In 1969 when the US 20 bridge over the Portage River was widened, the roadway for Findlay Road was changed with the sweep that formed the space for this little park shaped like a "tear drop." The Kiwanis Club planted flowers in a raised bed in the form of the club's "K" emblem. The Kiwanians mowed and maintained the small park area known as Tear Drop Park. The American Flag, Ohio Flag and Tree City Flag flew over the park. The Kiwanis Club and the Tree Committee continued to beautify the space for many years.

In 1995 the park underwent major changes. Village employees and community volunteers completed the work. The project began as a way to honor the third NASA space flight of Col. Tom Henricks, the town's famous astronaut. It also became a way to honor the memory of former Mayor Herbert W. Busdiecker.

Mr. Busdiecker was the Mayor of Woodville for 18 years. He served seven terms during the 1950s and early 1960s, and was re-elected to two more terms in the early 1970s. He also served on the village council, board of public affairs, and zoning board. He received a "Key to the Village" in 1983 and was honored by the village in 1987 at an appreciation dinner. The Busdieckers helped to maintain this little park in the earlier years. Elsie died in 1993 and Herb in 1994 at the age of 90.

On Flag Day, June 14, 1995, luminaries surrounding the park were lighted and a ceremony was held to honor the NASA astronauts and to rename the park to honor Mr. Busdiecker.

The park features fourteen flagpoles in a horseshoe formation, each flying the American Flag. The poles were paid for through Martin Marietta's Gift and Grant Program for community beautification and very generous donations from Mr. & Mrs. Harold McMaster and Luckey Farmers, Inc. The flagpoles were dedicated in memory of the first 14 NASA astronauts who have perished in the line of duty.

Colonel Terence T. "Tom" Henricks is a 1970 graduate of Woodmore High School, an Air Force Academy graduate and former Test Pilot and was selected by NASA becoming an astronaut in July 1986. He is the first astronaut to log more than 1000 hours as a shuttle pilot and commander. Three "orbiter" flags fly above a flower garden in honor of the Colonel's flights:

Atlantis – Nov. 1991 – Pilot
Columbia – April-May 1993 – Pilot
Discovery – July 1995 – Commander
Columbia – July 1996 - Commander

A committee has recently been formed to plan a fitting tribute to the Columbia astronauts who lost their lives on re-entry February 1, 2003. Soon the park will be redesigned to include a tribute to all the astronauts who have given their lives in space exploration.

Terence T. "Tom" Henricks
Colonel, USAF - NASA Astronaut

ROBERT J. TAULKER DRIVE

Former Fire Chief Robert Taulker was also honored at the Flag Day ceremonies in 1995. Mr. Taulker was a resident of Portage Valley Retirement Home at that time; however, he was able to attend as an honored guest. The blacktop driveway leading to the Fire Station was named Robert J. Taulker Drive in his honor. He was a fireman for over fifty years and served as the Fire Chief for twenty of those years.

Mr. Taulker died in May 2001 and was honored at that time in a touching tribute when the fire truck bearing his casket passed through the Fire Station and by a vacant chair where his helmet and boots rested.

H. W. Busdiecker Park

JUDITH J. MIGLIORI TRIBUTE

Judy was a very civic-minded person who lost her battle with cancer in August 1999. She served the community in many ways during her lifetime; two terms on the Woodmore school board, village clerk from 1984 until her death, and presided over and served on many volunteer committees. Former Mayor Richard Harman dubbed Judy as Woodville's #1 cheerleader. A flagpole was erected at the ball diamonds in her memory and a flag flies near the school that she dearly loved.

Mayor H. W. Busdiecker

WOODVILLE COMMUNITY POOL

The first donations for a pool were gathered at a Book Guild meeting on January 20, 1954 when the hat was passed to start a Swimming Pool Fund. Through the years other organizations held fund raisers, and in 1963 the Recreation Board held a public meeting to see if there was community interest and support for a pool project.

In 1966 the Junior League became actively involved and a Swimming Pool Committee was soon formed composed of Junior Leaguers and community leaders. Representing the Junior League: Mrs. Rod Burkett, Mrs. Tom Sandwisch, Mrs. Alan Sherk and Mrs. Daryl Sherman. From the community: John Chambers, William Green, Robert Heineman, Dan Mauntler, Rev. Carl Schneuker and Daryl Sherman.

In November the Junior League sponsored a luncheon for business and industry representatives. Betty Jo Sherman gave an overview of the goals of the committee, and Daryl Sherman led the discussion on location, financing and ownership of the community pool.

Previous efforts over the years had raised about $3,700, and the ultimate goal was to raise $80,000 and to have the pool open by Memorial Day in 1967. Mrs. Sherman was named Solicitations Chairman, and the Junior League of Women accomplished the pledge drive in just one week in December.

By late December pledges gathered, plus a sizable $36,000 private donation from the descendents of William H. Price and his wife Belle Baker Price brought the total to within $10,000 of the goal that had been set.

In January 1967 the lime companies announced their donations and the goal was met. In February the village acted to purchase the Oscar Meyerholtz property and the pool location was established at the corner of Erie Street and Perry Street.

Council appointed a working committee for the pool project as follows: Chairman Paul Heineman, Sanford Price, Dan Mauntler, A. E. Gilmore, John Florio and Joseph DiMasso.

Consultants were hired, plans were completed, the Meyerholtz house sold and moved across the street, bids were opened in late April and by May 19th the concrete pour began!

A plaque on the bathhouse acknowledges the Price Family donation:

Dedicated to the Memory of
W. H. & Belle Baker Price
Civic Minded Citizens by
Sanford G. Price
Isabelle P. Barbee
W. H. Price II
Patricia P. Trumbull
July 4, 1967

There were many other corporate gifts of supplies and materials from Ohio Lime Company, Charles Pfizer Plant, Woodville Lime & Chemical Company, and Martin Marietta Corp. The tempered solex-glass enclosure around the pool was donated by Permaglas, the pool heater by H. W. Busdiecker, and there were many hours of volunteer effort from individuals in the community.

The pool was officially dedicated July 4, 1967 with Congressman Delbert Latta as the speaker. THE TOLEDO BLADE stated "1500 donors to take bows when the new pool opens." Over $90,000 had been raised as the result of cooperative community effort.

In 1985 the village received $52,043 in funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, along with $66,420 of local funds that was used for major renovations. In 1992, state regulations required changes in the chlorination methods and a Martin Marietta Corporation grant covered the $5,600 cost.

A pool boosters group was formed in the early 1990s to help assist in the gathering of funds for on-going maintenance projects. A new pool heater was purchased, needed repairs made, and additional grant money was applied for and received. The boosters group accomplished their goals, and they were another excellent example of community volunteers assisting when a specific need arises.

WOODVILLE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Woodville enjoys one of the finest summer sports programs in the area. The foresight of the earlier booster groups, school officials and town officials to jointly develop ball diamonds and facilities and to use the property of the public school has resulted in one of the best sports complexes in the area.

A Park Board was formed by village council many years ago when Riverside Park was developed (later named Trailmarker Park). The Park Board worked with council on the management and development of the village's parks.

The Woodville Merchants Fast Pitch Softball team played their games on the school grounds and the team personally gathered donations for lighting the softball field. This was in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Woodville High School's Athletic Boosters were at council meetings in the early 1950s requesting summer programs for young girls and there were suggestions that a Recreation Board be created. Little League Baseball started in the mid 1950s with sponsorship by individual merchants. Football started at Woodville High School in the fall of 1959. The athletic boosters and school board worked together to light the athletic field, purchase a scoreboard and bleachers, and to have a facility that would also serve summer youth programs.

In 1962 the village council named the following to the Recreation Board: Tom Reineck, Joe Capriotti, Joe Catalano, Frank Lucki and Paul Might. These gentlemen came together representing various interested parties: the school board, council, and the community.

The Woodville Athletic Boosters organization was very active and in the early 1960s sponsored Big 64 Softball Tournaments. Men's softball was now becoming slo-pitch and the tournaments were very successful.

When Woodmore School District was formed beginning with the 1968-69 school year, this brought change to the athletic fields as football was now being played at Elmore. As events and change occurred, there was now a Woodmore Boosters Group for the support of school activities and the former Woodville Athletic Boosters evolved into the Woodville Youth Organization for the support of local summer programs.

The village's Recreation Board is responsible for the swimming pool and the village parks. Today, Woodmore High School uses the softball field and baseball diamonds for interscholastic sports.

The very organized and active WYO supports the summer program with fund raisers, donations, and many hours of volunteer time given by dedicated community members. They have improved parking, added new lighting in recent years, improved drainage and have built dugouts. They have spent over $200,000 in recent years on the complex.

Current officers of WYO are: President – Kurt Zollinger, Vice-President – Tom Noe, Secretary – Steve Heisler and Treasurer – Ed Moenter.

WOODMORE PONY LEAGUE

This independently run competitive baseball program is for boys ages 13-14 from both Woodville and Elmore. Both communities had their own program as part of local youth organizations. The two towns combined their efforts in the late 1990s with the goal of building a stronger Woodmore baseball feeder program. Volunteer coaches work with 35-40 boys each summer. There are usually three teams that compete in this league. Two teams remain in-house and play area teams, while one team travels to Toledo to compete.

Fund raisers are an annual chicken barbecue, 50/50 raffles, and two end-of-the-season tournaments.

COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER

New to the community and ready late this spring of 2003 is a community youth center. Ken Green has renovated and remodeled the former Marathon Station into the center, and an outdoor volleyball court is also being built. The facility is for the youth of the Woodmore School District and plans are to staff the center with students under adult

supervision. Plans are to obtain grants to fund the programs.

OTHER SPORTS NOTES

Woodville's earliest baseball diamond was southwest of town along Route 105 near the John Emch residence. A picture from 1897 shows two ball teams - **The Tender Feet** vs. **The Yellow Hammers**, and **The Woodville Browns** baseball team played other town teams at around the turn of the century.

Mollie Keil was said to be a great pitcher with a terrific arm, and a very long arm. There was a mounted measuring stick in Keil's Saloon showing his long reach and patrons of the bar could see how they measured up!

In the 1930s and the earlier 1940s **The Woodville Merchants** was a hard-ball team that played other area towns.

1932 Woodville graduate **Jessie "Jeppie" Brough** played pro ball with Chattanooga, part of the Cardinals farm system following WW II, before returning to Woodville to take over the butcher shop.

Left-handed pitcher **Alex Nedelco** graduated in 1942 and went into the military and was signed by the Detroit Tigers Club and played for seven seasons, including one season with the Toledo Mud Hens.

Herb Wegman graduated in 1944 and spent a summer in Orlando at the New York Giants training camp and played a short time before he was called home to work on the farm as all of his brothers were called into the military. In a little while, Herb was also called into the Army.

Left-handed pitcher **Don Little** graduated from high school in 1953 and was signed by the Chicago White Sox organization. Later in 1957 he was with the Pirates.

Don's son, **Jeff Little** graduated from Woodmore in 1973 and spent eleven years playing pro-ball with the Giants, Cardinals, Twins and Pirates. Jeff was also a left-handed pitcher.

1975 Woodmore graduate **Jon Giesler** was a state competitor in High School shot and discus, played four years of football for the University of Michigan, played in the Rose Bowl, and was a first round draft selection to the Miami Dolphins where he played for 11 seasons.

Many Woodville and Woodmore athletes have gone on to play college level sports, and we have all reveled in their success!

1897 Photo THE TENDER FEET vs THE YELLOW HAMMERS

CELEBRATIONS & OBSERVANCES

Homecomings and celebrations have been a part of our history for a very long time. We learn from a newspaper account that the first Homecoming was a one-day affair held on August 1, 1896. At the break of day there was a 100 Gun Salute, it is stated that there was dancing all day and into the evening! Races of all sorts were held: potato race, bicycle race, sack race, barrel race, 100 yard foot race, wheelbarrow race and even a "slow horse race". A parade was held along with baseball games, balloon ascensions and fireworks and over $400 was given away in prizes.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

The following information is from minutes of the American Legion and local news coverage and listed chronologically.

July 4, 1924: one of the greatest celebrations in Woodville for a great many years. The Legion put forth the idea of a fireworks display and businessmen were petitioned for donations. Mr. Assenheimer (local druggist) purchased the fireworks and the event was held on the school campus. There were no receipts from this celebration.

July 4, 1928: the second celebration after a lapse of 4 years. A parade with floats, band, singing, recitations, a ball game between the Legion and Exchange Club, ice cream social, fireworks, and a mock wedding with Joe Sandwisch and Bill Radeloff as flower girls, the burliest guys in town!

July 4, 1929: held on the school grounds, gave away an automobile, refreshment booth and a raffle wheel were erected. A special feature was airplane rides with the Legion receiving a percentage of the profit and there were fireworks. (the first auto raffle was on Armistice Day in 1924).

Organizing the celebration is mentioned in Legion minutes from 1930 and 1931. An early news article about the Fire Department goes into great detail about the jointly sponsored event in 1930. Prizes that were awarded were: electric Fridgidaire purchased from C. F. Kaemming, Coswell chair from D. Mollgaard, electric sweeper from A. H. Mauntler, electric clock from Donald Bruns, and a porch set from M. G. Veh of Gibsonburg. Profit to the Fire Department from this celebration netted $342.16.

Because of the Great Depression, there was no observance in 1932.

A big celebration was held August 17, 1933, for the dedication of the new Route 20 Bridge over the Portage River. This was a major event covered by all the area newspapers. (see article on Portage River Bridge).

July 4, 1936: a newspaper clipping about the 1936 celebration has been framed and presented to the Historical Society from the Legion Auxiliary. The event was held both at the school grounds and some events were uptown. The 36 piece Woodville Band directed by August Linkey was featured along with a 12 member girls drum corp. Earl Sheffer and Marilyn Schnoor were drum majors and 7-year old Garth Linkey was the band's mascot. The total profit from the celebration was $840.23.

News Article 1939: The Legion and Fire Department worked together hosting a parade, free entertainment and dancing and the fireworks were set off on the Carrie Bruns farm (location of today's fire station), and the new car was won by Louise Kroeger. The celebration had moved from the school grounds to uptown and Main Street was blocked from Portage to Perry with rides and concessions on the street.

There continued to be annual observance through 1941. During World War II there were no celebrations.

The celebration resumed in 1946 jointly sponsored by the American Legion and Volunteer Fire Department. The celebration is the biggest fundraiser for each organization. The Legion uses its proceeds to maintain the organization's operations. The Fire Department uses its proceeds for fire-fighting and life-saving equipment. Legionnaire Earl Blausey and Fireman Leonard Meyer, both now deceased, pioneered the way for the present day celebrations.

Some of us remember dancing on Walnut Street which was concrete, standing elbow to elbow in the

huge crowds waiting for the ticket to be drawn on the car, and eating the wonderful fish sandwiches and burgers served at the food tent on South Walnut Street. This was the biggest event of the summer for children who were lucky to live at that time of peace and progress. US Route 20 traffic was re-routed to First Street.....can you imagine that today!

Times were changing and closing Route 20 for several days was no longer possible. Riverside Park was now completed and 1953s celebration was the first at this new location. The State of Ohio's Sesquicentennial was observed that year and Woodville joined in with a big parade on the 4th of July that was viewed by an estimated 15,000 people.

In March 1961 a non-profit charter was issued to the "Woodville Fourth of July Celebration." The purpose clause reads: to organize and conduct a Fourth of July Celebration annually for a period of from three to seven days for the benefit of the people of the vicinity of Woodville, Ohio." Trustees named were: Robert Taulker, John Heminger and Elwood Rohtert, Robert Heineman was Statutory Agent. Officers of the Association: Earl Blausey – President, Leonard Meyer – Vice President, Robert Heineman – Secretary/Treasurer.

Another big year was July 1967 when the Silver Jubilee of the 4th Celebration was observed. There was a five-day celebration with two nights of fireworks. A big parade hosted by the Kiwanis Club with Ed Melnek as Parade Marshall was held on the 4th and a major milestone for the community was the dedication and opening of the swimming pool. Congressman Delbert Latta was the guest speaker. Many volunteer hours by clubs and organizations and generous donations made the pool a reality! We were all very proud and our kids were very happy!

Woodville's Sesquicentennial was observed in 1986 and many, many observances took place that year and the biggest event was the parade on the 4th of July. The Grand Marshalls were Jon Geisler of Michigan and Miami Dolphin football fame and Astronaut Tom Henricks. It was a huge success thanks to Bob Wittkamp and the Kiwanis Club.

The celebrations have weathered floods, wind, storms and severe drought. There is always food, games, entertainment and rides; except in 1978 when the amusement company double booked and left Woodville without carnival rides. The kick-off event each year is the Kiddie Parade sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary. The fireworks displays were first at the school grounds, then along Findlay Road where the Fire Station sits today, and now in the orchard area in Trailmarker Park.

Busy planning this years 2003 celebration are: President – Bob Berfield, Vice-President – Doug Sparks, Secretary – Bill Andrews, and Treasurer – Scott Schneider.

We have enjoyed over 60 years of celebrations jointly sponsored by American Legion Post #455 and the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department. A rich history of successful cooperation entertaining the people in the vicinity of Woodville thanks to many, many volunteer hours by many dedicated people.

1986 – TOWN'S 150TH BIRTHDAY WOODVILLE'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

The year was 1986 and it was Woodville's 150th Birthday. All year long the focus was on Woodville's history, beginning with a Wine & Cheese Party hosted by the Sesquicentennial Committee to acquaint local businesses with the events being planned. New signs were placed at the village east and west limits made possible by Martin Marietta Gift and Grants program. The bell from the old Town Hall was rededicated on June 14th and placed in front of the present day Town Hall on Main Street. The annual Community Church Service and Kiwanis Chicken BBQ took place on the Sunday before the celebration. Solomon church ladies hosted a Festival of Quilts Show. Souvenir items were sold by various groups promoting the town; such as coffee and beer mugs, calendars and cookbooks, and T-shirts. The Post Office used a special cancellation on July 4th and 5th.

The Lime Festival and the first Do-Da Parade was in October, and in November there was a Dinner Theater production which led to the formation of the Lime Light Players who entertained at a few more events in later years. There was also a Youth Dance. Many community events took place in 1986!

The Historical Society published a SKETCH BOOK OF WOODVILLE and sold an envelope commemorating 150 years and locating Woodville on an Ohio map as the Lime Center of the World, and the likeness of the Woodville's flag, as well as the special cancellation used by the Post Office.

The Woodville flag was designed by the late Janis Nieman. The flag shows our town's name and date of founding, the sunburst signifies the friendliness of the people who live in Woodville, and the Kelly green background promotes the growth and life of a thriving community. (Janis and husband Tom died in a tragic traffic accident 8 Dec 1984 at age 38).

THE LIME FESTIVAL
1983 to 1995

This fall festival celebrated the slogan "Woodville – The Lime Capital of the World" and was sponsored by the Business and Civic Association, and later a committee of community members planned this annual event. The festival was held on the sidewalks of Main Street and Veterans Memorial Park and some events were at Trailmarker Park.

Sidewalk sales and church food booths lined Main Street, along with chili cook-offs, bake-offs and barbecues. The lime plants and other contractors showed off their heavy equipment. One of the highlights was Guess the Weight of the Rock sponsored by Martin Marietta with the winner receiving the rock!

There were Duck Races on the Portage River and Mutt Races in Veterans Park. Tasha owned by Jim Ridgely out performed the competitors – a 7 time champion.

The Do-Da Parade was for anyone who ever wanted to be in a parade, but was never invited to enter. Parade times were always varied, but at odd times like 1:11 PM, never on the hour! This adult kiddie parade was based on the idea that the "loonier the better" and there were memorable entries over the years. The Mother's Club Diaper Brigade, lawn-mower drill team, the dancing Raisinettes, Lady Godiva, Blues Brothers, and Ronnie D & the Greasers lawn chair regiment just to name a few!

Proceeds from most of the events were given to local charities or local individuals needing medical assistance.

"OLDE TOLL HOUSE DAY"
1998 & 1999

The Merchant's Association is a group of local businesses that have joined together to share advertising costs and create a larger customer base. Olde Toll House Day was held June 13, 1998 that was also Woodville's Founding Day (when the first plat of the town was filed on June 13th in 1836.) There were sidewalk sales, food booths, a craft show, mutt races, working quilting display, and an antique car show followed by an evening dance.

In November 1998 and again in 1999 a dinner was held in Solomon's Cronenwett Hall sponsored by the Merchant's Association and the Historical Society who dressed in 1800s costumes. We were taken back in time by the music of the Black Swamp Dulcimers. Following a dinner of foods that might have been served in the early years, there was an auction of baked goods and handcrafted items and artwork that was quite lucrative with very competitive bidding! Emil Konesky volunteered his services as the auctioneer.

ALL AMERICAN FESTIVAL

This first-time festival held September 14, 2002 at Trailmarker Park was sponsored by the Woodville Visioning Committee. There was a vintage ballgame, classic cars, children's games and food booths.

In the evening the Shriner's Concert Band presented a program of patriotic music. A candle-light vigil was held remembering the victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. Georgine Marisay Corrigan, Woodville High School Class of 1964, was aboard Flight 93 that crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside that day. Class members were present to honor her memory and a park bench was donated in her memory.

WOODVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

As early as the mid-1800s the town owned a hand pumper, ladder wagon and a hose cart that was operated by volunteers known as the Woodville Hook and Ladder Company.

In July 1888 the village purchased a lot on Main Street between Perry and Cherry Street for the site of a town hall and fire station. (the old Town Hall is Ornament #6 of the historic building series). This building was torn down in 1951 to make room for a newer town hall and fire station.

Cisterns were dug in various parts of town in 1888-89. Cistern water and the river water was the source for fighting fires and served until 1929 when the water system with hydrants was built. Bottoms of the cisterns were cement with plastered over brick walls and tiles fed the cisterns. In recent years a cistern was found at Elm and Depot Streets and filled.

Village Council purchased a 30" brass bell on May 2, 1894 for the purpose of summoning firemen when there was a fire. The bell was mounted above the Town Hall and was also used to call Council members together for meetings. In later years it was used as a curfew warning. In 1951 when the present Town Hall was built, the bell was retired.

Later, the old bell was rededicated as part of Woodville's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Mayor Richard Harman hosted the event held on June 14, 1986, and former Mayors Dallas Porter, Robert Meyer and H. W. Busdiecker each spoke briefly on a heritage theme. The bell was placed on a brick base in front of the Town Hall. This project was made possible through a generous donation from Martin Marietta Basic Products. The program came to a resounding close when former Mayor Busdiecker pulled the rope and "rang the bell."

In the mid 1890s a 500 G.P.M. horse drawn steam- pumper was purchased from the American Fire Engine Company for $2500. The first operator of the steam-pumper was saloon-keeper Charlie Keil assisted by his son Mollie who fed the firebox. William Molkenbur was Fire Chief; however, there was no organized department at this time.

In February 1896 steps were taken to organize with the following officers elected:

William M. Fletcher – Chief
Tom Crawford – 1st Engineer
Charles Keil – 2nd Engineer
John Englehart – 1st Fireman
William Myers – 2nd Fireman
Stillwell Sivals – hook and ladder
Charles Rohtert – foreman of the house

No other records can be found for the turn of the century years.

Fire Chief I. G. Hoesman called a meeting in January 1928 for the purpose of reorganizing and the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department was formed. There were 50 charter members who signed a membership form denoting their willingness to voluntarily fight the dreaded menace of fire in Woodville. Mayor Gus Linkey, Chief Hoesman and M. C. Schnoor drew up a set of by-laws. The first officers were:

Mayor Gus Linkey – President
Jerome Day – Vice President
Rudolph Sandwisch – Secretary
Howard DeMuth – Finance Secretary
Paul Sandwisch – Treasurer
I. G. Hoesman – Fire Chief
Franz Weber – Fireman on steamer
Chris Rieman – Engineer
William Molkenbur – Chief of Fire Police
Charles Rohtert – Sgt. at Arms and Captain.

William Kruse, Arthur Keil and Clarence Stein were elected to serve as trustees. The first business was to make application to join the Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Firemen Association.

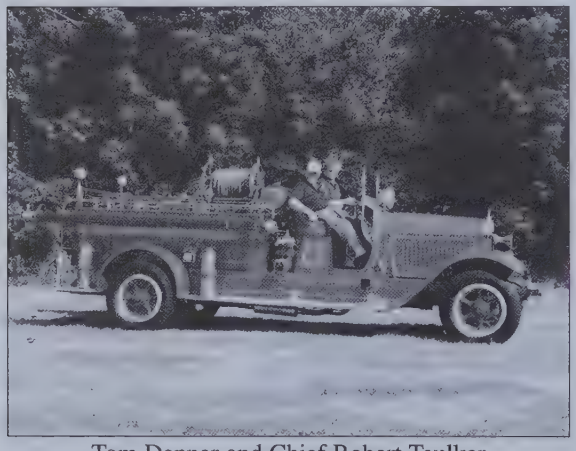
In the 1920s reports of fires were handled through the Woodville telephone office with the alarm sounded by "Central", the telephone operator on duty.

The first uniform was purchased in May 1928 consisting of white trousers, white shirts, black ties and belts and white hats through local merchant F. J. Rohtert. A complete outfit cost $3.75 and the uniform was worn for the first time at the Memorial Day Parade. The Fire Department appeared in dress parade on the evening of July 4th in the celebration sponsored by the American Legion.

The first major fire following the department's reorganization was when the Woodville Ice Company was struck by lightning. The fire was out of control and all that could be done was prevent

the fire from spreading. The loss was estimated at $40,000 and the business was not rebuilt.

The first motorized piece of equipment, a 500 G.P.M. American LaFrance pumper was purchased in 1929 for $7,050. Voters approved a 1.5 mill tax levy to fund the truck and new equipment. This piece of equipment was used until 1957 when it was sold to the Neapolis Fire Department who used the pumper until 1977. They sold the truck to a collector in Wyoming, Michigan. The pumper was relocated, disassembled and then restored during Fire Chief Taulkers' years. Money was raised to purchase the truck by selling $100 no interest certificates, redeemable in five years. The job was finished in July 1986 and the truck appeared in a parade at Greenfield Village where it was awarded first place for the Best Restored Early Vintage Fire Truck. The pumper is now proudly displayed and featured in local parades.



Tom Depner and Chief Robert Taulker
1929 Restored Pumper

A drill team was formed in about 1930 with Harry Karchner as drillmaster. Uniforms were ordered and the drill team performed at conventions, and area functions for which they received money for their services adding to the treasury. The drill team took first place honors at many firemen's conventions for being the largest fire company with a band in a parade, the best and neatest fire company, the best drilled company putting on "fancy drill." The Woodville Exchange Club Band accompanied the drill team.

It was in the 1930s that joint sponsorship of Woodville's annual 4th of July Celebration was being considered. This venture became one of the department's major fund raising activities. (see article on Celebrations & Observances)

In 1932 the practice of having the fire siren blown once each day at noontime was initiated. The last Sunday in June was established as a day for memorial services for departed members.

Discussions between the Fire Department, Township Trustees and Village Officials were on-going in the mid 1930s concerning out-of-town fires and the purchase of equipment. In early 1937 an agreement between the Woodville Township Trustees and the Village of Woodville for fire protection in the township was signed. The village truck would respond to all calls in the township and the township would reimburse the village $300 for this protection for a period of one year.

At Christmas in 1939 another service to the Woodville community was instituted when the Department and Garden Club began a special Christmas entertainment and treat for children. The children were invited to attend a free show at the Limelite Theatre and Santa presented each child with a treat as they left the theatre. Santa now returns to the Fire Station each year to see the little children.

In 1945 the Fireman and Legion cooperated to develop a community park. Together they purchased land in the area east of Cherry Street along the river where the swimming pool and tennis court is located.

In 1949 the township purchased a pumper and the village and township began sharing the cost of operating the fire department. The first rescue truck was purchased in 1951 with $4800 of their own funds. A newer rescue truck was purchased in 1970 and equipped with the Jaws of Life tool that alone cost $6500.

An Auxiliary was organized in 1971 and this group has helped in many ways – providing food and coffee at major fires, assisting in 4th of July Celebration, and helping at the monthly pancake breakfasts. Currently, this group is not active.

An important milestone occurred on August 15, 1973 when the Village Council and Woodville Township Trustees signed a contract which provided that the village house equipment and that the township provide operating funds.

Change was taking place in emergency response to accidents. Funeral Homes were the providers of ambulance service and as regulations required more high tech equipment, Emergency Medical Services were being developed. Representatives from the village, township, fire department, and local funeral directors all worked together with the County Commissioners to develop services in Sandusky County. (see EMS Story)

The present fire station was built in 1979-80 on property purchased from Florence Molkenbur just east of the Portage River Bridge. A five year 2.9 mill levy funded the project. The building was dedicated on March 23, 1980 with Don Wolfe of the Toledo Blade as guest speaker. A copper box with relics of fire fighting in the olden days, fire photos, rosters and memorabilia has been placed behind a plaque inscribed 1980 near the entrance to the station. Currently 1.2 mills are being levied for operation and replacement of equipment.

Fire Chiefs who have served since the department organized in 1928 are as follows:

I. G. Hoesman	1928-1931
L. R. Molkenbur	1931-1940
Kenneth Sitzenstock	1940-1956
Thomas Hathaway	1957-1967
Robert J. Taulker	1967-1986
Robert Hathaway	1986-1990
Paul A. Heineman	1990-present

On Flag Day in 1995, the blacktop entrance to the fire station was dedicated and named the Robert J. Taulker Drive. Mr. Taulker's family operated the Woodville Hotel across the street from the Town Hall/Fire Station, and as a youngster he was responsible for opening the large garage doors for responding firemen. Chief Taulker was very active in fund-raising activities; such as the 4th of July Celebrations and monthly pancake breakfasts. During his tenure, the present fire station was built and he promoted and worked on the restoration of the 1929 American LaFrance pumper. He was a volunteer fireman for over 50 years.

The history of the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department is the story of volunteer effort on the part of many men and women who provide fire protection. We are fortunate to have those among us who willingly put themselves at risk to help those in need. It is also the success story of local government cooperation as the township and village work in harmony.

THE EMS STORY

Sandusky County Emergency Medical Services started in 1975 with five full-time squads that were supported by federal monies through 1979. Life Squad #16 was in Woodville. Federal funds were lost and the County Commissioners enacted a county-wide ½ per cent permissive "piggy back" sales tax, and operations continued.

As a cost saving measure the commissioners decided to close the Woodville station in the fall of 1983. Woodville would be served by the Gibsonburg EMS increasing response time. Woodville area residents were dismayed, as they were paying the county EMS tax, but not getting the same service as other areas in the county. Compromises were made and Woodville had daytime coverage, but the unit returned to Fremont at night. Night calls were to be handled by Gibsonburg.

Signs appeared around the town stating "I can't hold my breath for 8 minutes. Please keep EMS." Finally, the diminished county services ended in early April of 1984.

Meanwhile public meetings were held and committees were formed to work to regain full-time EMS services. Local resident Ken Glassford was employed as a health care consultant and was in daily contact with St. Vincent Hospital's Vice President, Conrad Bogusz (a leader in Life Flight operations in Northwest Ohio). Ken wrote to Mr. Bogusz explaining Woodville's dilemma, and ultimately St. Vincent's entered into a contractual agreement with the Township Trustees for a full-time unit in Woodville.

To fund the arrangement with St. Vincent's a 1.5 mill levy was placed on the May 1984 ballot. St. Vincent's Medical Center would manage the service, provide a medical advisor and hire the full-time EMS staff (about 2/3rds of the cost). Patients would be transported to the most appropriate hospital and the squad would also honor physician referrals. The county commissioners agreed to fund and equip an ambulance. Woodville Township is responsible for maintenance and replacement of the vehicle and medical equipment.

A seven member advisory board was formed:

Daniel Liskai, Woodville Township Trustee
Richard Harman, Mayor of Woodville
Ken Glassford, Community Representative
Eunice Rife, Community Representative
Richard Shock, St. Vincent
Dr. Frank Foss, EMS Medical Director
John Monroe, St. Vincent

The new service started in April 1984 prior to the passage of the May levy. A leap of faith and the voters responded by passing the issue by 91%. The new unit was named Life Squad 91.

The agreement with St. Vincent's was ended by mutual agreement and a new agreement was made with St. Charles Hospital. This agreement was also ended and Woodville was once again looking for a provider of emergency medical services.

An agreement was reached with a new provider, North Central EMS with corporate offices at Milan, OH. This service started January 1, 1999. Currently, the township is levying 2.0 local mills for emergency services. The Sandusky County Commissioners subsidize the local operation of EMS with $65,000 annually.

Recently, a mutual aide agreement was arranged by the county commissioners for back-up services. Gibsonburg EMS which is part of the county system and Woodville's EMS will assist each other, with first responsibility their own respective territories, but assisting each other when needed.

911 Service became available in December 1992 and Woodville's full-time Life Squad #91 is housed at the Fire Station on Findlay Road.

WSOS WOODVILLE NUTRITION SITE/SENIOR CENTER

A county-wide levy for Senior Services was passed in November 1987 and the Nutrition Site was established using the community room at the Woodville Township Fire Station. The site is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Lunch is served each day as prepared by the WSOS kitchen in Fremont. Friends and family are welcome any day, reservations must be made for lunch. Also, over 20 local seniors have lunch delivered to their home on a daily basis.

Seniors enjoy the companionship of being together, reminiscing and sharing their interests and hobbies, playing cards and bingo. Speakers talk on topics such as exercise and nutrition. EMS personnel housed at the Fire Station do weekly blood pressure checks.

WSOS provides services in Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Seneca counties, and has been in service for over 35 years. Their motto is "Helping People to Help Themselves."

Prior to the Nutrition Site, a Woodville Senior Citizens' Club was formed in June 1978. The group was first sponsored by the United Methodist Church, and later became an independent organization. Another attempt was The New Beginning Senior Citizens Group of Woodville formed in May 1987 through the Methodist Church. This group began meeting at the Senior Center at the Fire Station and was the forerunner of the Senior Center as we know it today.

BOOK GUILD
WOODVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1937 a small group of Woodville women met to discuss forming a study club for the purpose of reading and reviewing books. They dreamed that somehow they would be instrumental in bringing a permanent library service to Woodville. Their dream was realized when the study club evolved into the Book Guild and with the establishment of the Woodville Public Library, a branch of Fremont's Birchard Library system.

The Woodville Library started operations on a table in Ken's Furniture Store with books supplied by Birchard Library that had only recently started branch operations. Ken Sitzenstock, owner of the furniture store, acted as librarian with weekly assistance from Birchard. Books were borrowed for a penny a day, and children's story hours were sometimes held in Book Guild members' homes.

Growth was rapid and in February 1940 the library moved to the former office of the late Dr. Blanchard at 420 West Main Street, and Dorothy Keil was employed as librarian. Local organizations donated furnishings and magazine subscriptions to the library and the Book Guild started a permanent collection of children's books. The federal government through The Works Progress Administration (WPA) paid Miss Keil's salary until 1942. The library was at this location for almost seven years.

First Library Building
420 West Main Street

The next move was back into the business district when the former Woodville Savings Bank building (now Museum) was purchased and renovated to meet the needs of a library. Six local organizations: The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Volunteer Fire Department, Garden Club, Relief Corp, and the Book Guild and many community-minded citizens worked together to fund the purchase. The building deed is held by the Village of Woodville, and on November 1947 the Library opened its doors at the new location and remained here for twenty-three years.

In 1968 when Woodville State Bank moved across the street to their present building (site of Huntington Bank at Main and Perry Streets) the Guild members began to dream that the vacated bank space could be used for a library. Others interested in preserving the history of this part of the Black Swamp dreamed about a museum in the space that would be available when the library relocated. In March of 1969 the Library-Museum Fund Drive was initiated to raise $50,000 to purchase the bank building and remodel it to meet the library's needs and to develop a museum in the former library building. Committee members were as follows:

Co-Chairmen of Fund Drive: Sanford Price and Paul Heineman

Division Leaders: Ed Melnek, Robert Harman, Mrs. James Mitchell

Solicitations Chairman: Wilbur Hesselbart

Woodville Library Committee:
Mrs. George Judd, Chairman
Earl Blausey, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Milton Spiess, Secretary
Mrs. Wilbur Arnold, Treasurer
Mrs. Vernon Slotterbeck, Finance Chairman

Woodville Library-Museum Building Committee was soon formed to direct the spending of the pledge money and the remodeling of the two buildings. This committee was as follows:

Mrs. George Judd, Chairman
Sanford Price, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Harold McMasters, Secretary
Mrs. Worthy Owens, Treasurer
Thomas Shuster, Attorney
Mrs. Hallie Grimes and Richard Gooch of Birchard Library
Mrs. Herbert Wegman representing Woodville Village Council
Mrs. Vernon Slotterbeck representing Birchard Library Board

This committee met almost weekly overseeing the project.

The dream was realized in June 1970 when the Library moved into their present location and the Museum became a reality. The Village of Woodville owns the library building and maintains the property. Birchard Library of Fremont owns all contents and furnishings and pays the librarians' salaries. Utilities are cooperatively handled by the village and Birchard per renewable management and lease agreements.

The formal dedication and opening for the Library and Museum was June 21, 1970. Historical Society members were in period costume, speeches were made reviewing the workings of the library and museum, and refreshments were served by the Book Guild.

The Book Guild meets monthly on the third Thursday September through May. Current officers: President – Pat Ragan, Vice-President – Janet Cook, Secretary – Pat Cook, Treasurer – Kathy Kanipe.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Three residents who were most influential in the establishment of the museum and the Woodville Historical Society were Sanford Price, Alton Weigel and Florence Molkenbur. The society organized in 1970 with the purpose of developing the new museum to house local artifacts and preserve the history of Woodville and the Black Swamp. The society worked to encourage local interest in providing items for display and in the preparation of the displays. The museum has permanent displays, as well as displays on loan for a period of time. The first officers were as follows:

Sanford Price, President
Rev. Raymond Orth, Vice-President
Lawrence Radeloff., Secretary
James Mitchell, Treasurer

The museum houses collections of fossils found in the local quarries, Indian artifacts and arrow heads and Effigy death mask, pioneer tools and cooking aids, antique high wheeler bicycle, old musical instruments, as well as old public records and maps. A rare 1860 map of Sandusky County is displayed. The desk and the toll book used at Toll Gate #3 on the Maumee & Western Reserve Turnpike is on display. There is a black wedding dress dating back to 1857, as well as uniforms and other clothing from various periods. WOODVILLE NEWS and THE LIMESTONE newspapers are on microfilm. Graduates of Woodville Public Schools from 1896 through 1968 are listed and composite pictures on display. There are three revolving racks of photographs showing old ball teams, school pictures, flood pictures, and aspects of life in a small town.

In recent years collectible ornaments of historic structures have been sold by the society. Six ornaments have been commissioned as follows:

#1 McBride Tavern – built in about 1845
#2 Woodville Foot Bridge – 1890s
#3 Woodville Centralized School building – 1923
#4 Solomon Lutheran Church building as it appeared in 1865
#5 United Brethren Church building as it appeared in 1900
#6 old Town Hall – 1888

Historians state that one way to appreciate the present and anticipate the future is to learn about the past. The museum is a delight for historians and browsers, a storehouse about the people and events that shaped the Woodville area.

The present hours that the museum is open: Monday and Wednesday from 2 – 4 P.M. and closed during January and February. The members of the Historical Society will open the museum at other times by request. The library personnel know the Historical Society members to contact to open the museum.

The current officers of the Historical Society are President – Kermit Hoesman, Vice-President – Wayne Karchner, Secretary – Doris Hoesman, and Treasurer – Kitty Karchner.

Woodville enjoys two facilities dedicated to man's interest and pleasure in the written word and the preservation and appreciation of his immediate past. The Book Guild continues their purpose "to foster literary activity in the community and to promote the Public Library." The Historical Society continues the collection of memorabilia from "days gone bye" - to preserve and understand our past.

BANKING SERVICES

THE WOODVILLE SAVINGS BANK

First meetings were held on the second floor of the Keil Building in August 1901 with 31 shareholders subscribing for the purchase of sufficient stock to capitalize the bank at $25,000. Seven directors were elected: Fred H. Hartman, Bernard S. Otten, Benedict Emch, John F. Mauntler, Jr., William Keil, William H. Price and Charles A. Kuhlman. Mayor John F. Nieman administered the oath of office.

The following were then elected as the first officers: William Keil, President, B. S. Otten, Vice-President, and Henry Rancamp, Cashier and Secretary.

The newly formed bank opened in November in their new building (now the Historical Society Museum) and established daily hours from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M., 12:30 to 3:30 P.M. The bank was open on Saturday nights from 6 to 8:00 P.M. to serve the agricultural community.

Over the ensuing years, the bank prospered, receiving and making loans to individuals and businesses. Real estate, either farmland or individual homes secured a majority of the loans that were made.

The nationwide economic depression of the 1930s changed banking operations as dividends to stockholders were omitted and salaries of the staff were reduced. Interest rates on savings were reduced, and depositors were asked to sign agreements that no withdrawals would be made to ensure the continuing operation of the bank during the troubled times.

In November 1933 action was taken for membership in the temporary federal deposit insurance fund – up until that time, deposits were uninsured.

In April 1941 an application was made to the Federal Reserve Cleveland to act as issuing agent for the sale of United States Defense Savings Bonds – Series "E".

Often the topic of discussion and concern was the possible merger of the two Woodville banks. By March 1942 a plan of consolidation had been agreed upon.

THE STATE SAVINGS BANK OF WOODVILLE

The second bank in town opened in 1909 with 96 shareholders subscribing for the purchase of stock to capitalize the bank at $25,000. The incorporators were Daniel H. Bittinger, William Doepker, Henry W. Molkenbur, Jacob F. Smith and Dr. Henry Busch.

Daniel H. Bittinger was named the first president and temporary quarters were established in a former bar room in the "brick hotel" (Flaherty's Rooming House – later the Ohio Hydrate building).

A new building was constructed at the corner of Walnut and Main Street (now the west half of the Library) and was open to business at this location in late 1909.

The stockholders meeting in 1927 took a unique departure from the ordinary when 100 stockholders and guests attended a dinner meeting. A turkey dinner was served at the high school by the domestic science class, and a varied program followed.

This bank also took steps to survive the depression when signed agreements were secured from savings depositors who agreed not to make withdrawals from the accounts.

The bank became a member of the Federal Reserve System in 1939, and later in 1941 they also sold Defense Savings Bonds.

After much deliberation, the shareholders of the two banks approved the consolidation into one bank to be known as The Woodville State Bank.

The final board meeting of the State Savings Bank was held on July 15, 1942.

THE WOODVILLE STATE BANK

The newly consolidated bank started operations on July 16, 1942 in the building at the corner of Walnut and Main Street.

The first officers were as follows: Fred Witmer – President, E. J. Nieman – Vice President, A. W. Emch – Executive Vice President and F. W. Rolf – Cashier and Secretary.

Wartime conditions now existed, and the bank made a conscious effort to promote and meet quotas established for the sale of Defense Bonds. The bank was among the first to actively participate in loans to returning veterans under the G. I. Bill of Rights that offered financing at a preferred rate and with very liberal terms.

In the summer of 1950 the bank moved their bookkeeping department into the renovated space that had been a store to the east of the bank (now using the entire space of today's Library).

In January 1954 in an effort to promote interest and attendance at the stockholders annual meeting, a dinner meeting was held for the 206 stockholders and guests served by the ladies of Solomon Lutheran Church.

In August 1955 the board regretfully accepted the resignation of Fred Witmer who had been president since the formation of the bank, and Arthur W. Emch was immediately elevated to fill the position.

The bank was seriously damaged by fire on Memorial Day in 1957. The entire roof was destroyed; however, there was no loss of records or equipment. Temporary quarters were set up in the old block post office building across the street and it was business as usual the very next day. At the close of each business day, cash and other valuables were transported under the watchful eye of our local police back across the street to the vault that had survived the fire.

Banking activity continued to increase and a site for a new bank was secured at the corner of Main and Perry Streets. An open house was held in December 1968 in the new building.

Automating services was now being discussed, and in April 1969 checking accounts were the first to be processed at a new computer center in Fremont that had been organized by several banks to provide this new service.

In September 1970 the local bank board met in Columbus with officers of Huntington Bancshares, and the local bank became an affiliate of the bank holding company. Later, in November 1974 the name of the bank became The Huntington Bank of Woodville.

HUNTINGTON BANK OF WOODVILLE

The affiliation with Huntington Bankshares brought many organizational changes. Several other small town banks in northwest Ohio were now part of the Huntington system with similarities in operation and markets they served. The group was organized into the Community Bank Group with a regional executive from Huntington in charge.

The local bank board continued in an advisory capacity for a few years and were kept informed of new developments that affected local operations.

Many new services were added including Personal Credit Lines and an ATM machine in the lobby. Automation was now totally necessary in the banking industry and all accounting functions were converted to operate on the Huntington computer systems.

Arthur W. Emch started as a bank clerk in 1924 and ended his 50-year career in 1974 having risen to the office of bank president during his last twenty years.

Another notable career of lifetime service is that of Robert Heineman who started in the bank following high school graduation in 1947, served in the Korean War, and returned to Woodville State Bank rising to the office of bank president, and retiring in 1989 having spent over 40 years in banking in the Woodville community.

The Woodville State Bank had always been community minded in the financial support of local events, and in the sponsorship of scholarships, and in the support of local youth activities. Huntington continues this practice.

SKY BANK

Once again the community had two banking facilities when First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Wood County opened the local branch in August 1979 at the corner of Main and Perry Streets. There was an unusual opening ceremony when a ribbon of twenty $10.00 bills was then cut with half donated to the Historical Society and half to the Recreation Board.

In an acquisition on July 18, 1999 the bank became a full service Mid Am Banking facility. The name changed to Sky Bank in February 2001. Gary Zajac has been with the bank since it opened in 1979.

Sky Bank sponsors a Student of the Month Program honoring outstanding Woodmore Seniors, and supports local youth activities and local events.

NEWSPAPERS

The first issue of a 5-column weekly called THE NEWS was published on November 9, 1894. A. C. Gorsuch was the founder and publisher and his wife was in charge of the editorial department. Her first editorial message follows:

"Our Greeting – We do not know as we have anything to offer, other than we are among you for the purpose of publishing a weekly paper, and while an editor is not unlike the minister unable to please the majority so far as lying in our power to do and while we shall put forth an effort to make the paper a newsy and interesting sheet and by it work for the interest and upbuilding of the town of Woodville. We desire to ask the cooperation of the citizens of the village and surrounding country for by their support we hope none may be backward in contributing all news of interest either by articles or items for our local columns, so please bear in mind that all such will be appreciated.

"Now as we come among you as strangers, let us not continue to be strangers and we invite everybody to come in and get acquainted."

Mrs. Gorsuch's son, W. F. Warner was in charge of mechanical work on the paper.

The paper soon became a 6-column paper and in 1898 became a semi-weekly, and Mr. Warner became the editor and publisher. The Gorsuchs moved to Navarre, OH where he died. Soon Mrs. Gorsuch returned to Woodville and she and her son operated the paper under the name of Warner and Gorsuch. In 1899 the paper cost $1.00 per year paid in advance, or $1.50 if charged. In 1903 another change took place when Warner quit the paper and Mrs. Gorsuch took sole ownership. In 1904 V. E. Schue became the managing editor and the printer. He continued until 1913 or 1914 when the paper closed due to lack of advertising interest. The Gorsuch offices were in the Woodville Hotel.

THE WOODVILLE NEWS started in November 1924 with Fred Kneip as editor, and the paper was published in Gibsonburg by J. T. Loveland. However, locally there was a smaller printing press for posters, leaflets, etc. The office was in the former Dr. Trumbull's office and had two rooms, one for office and one for the small press. Later the office was in Mr. Kneip's home and various other locations around the town. In 1944 the subscription price was $2.00 per year. Fred Kneip edited the paper for 28 years until December 1952.

Dean Wood who printed Genoa's local paper also published the Woodville paper continuing the name of THE WOODVILLE NEWS. There were several editors throughout the balance of the 1950s: Ray Gillespie, Merrill Rudes, Walter E. Taylor, Don Huss and Fred Bauer. Verna Haas was the local correspondent.

William M. Campbell who printed and published Pemberville's local paper purchased the WOODVILLE NEWS in the early 1960s. Verna Haas continued as the Managing Editor with their offices in the west side of the theater building. The paper now cost $3.50 per year. Campbell phased out the WOODVILLE NEWS and a 1967 copy of Pemberville's THE LEADER states "including the coverage of the former Woodville News."

Barbara N. Hudson Mauntler started THE WOODVILLE LIMESTONE in December 1967 continuing for a full ten years through January 1978. Marilynne A. Webb was the Associate Editor and Doris Rohtert was the reporter. At the time of closing the paper the offices were at 905 West Main Street that was also the home of Mrs. Mauntler's other business, The Shoestring, a decorating firm that provided a consulting

service and stock of household accessories. Do you remember the coverage of business people, Which Way Did They Go – the fire department activities, and The Happening which covered Woodmore High School events? The cost of THE WOODVILLE LIMESTONE - No charge - published through the cooperation of the merchants and businessmen of Woodville, Ohio, and the surrounding area.

Lori Hepler writes a once a week article about Woodville events and news that appears in Fremont's NEWS-MESSENGER, and we also have coverage in the SUBURBAN PRESS. Bruce Hudson writes articles that appear in THE HAYSEED and he also writes coverage of high school events that appears in THE OTTAWA COUNTY EXPONENT. Small town newspapers are disappearing rapidly as we turn to other media for news and information.

NOTE: All issues of THE WOODVILLE NEWS and THE WOODVILLE LIMESTONE are on film and available at the museum.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

Area mail service started October 10, 1831 to Sugar Creek, Clay Township. The first postmaster was Henry Weaver. George Watt and Amos Wood were the next postmasters through 1839.

The Post Office was then located in town in Powers Store with Charles Powers as the postmaster. Dr. Ferguson's office was in the same building located where Cousino's Antiques are today.

The Mud Pike was a challenge to the mail service and the two-wheel horse-drawn cart could not keep a regular schedule. When the road was improved, towns along the Maumee & Western Reserve Road served as distribution points for other small towns. Woodville served that purpose for Pemberville until 1866.

John Elderkin, J. H. Rearick and Andrew Nuhfer followed as postmasters. John Sivalls served in the 1880s during the terms of Presidents Garfield, Harrison and Cleveland.

When George Wehring was in charge the Post Office was located in Nuhfer's Hardware Store.

In about 1915 the Post Office was located between the Gorsuch Boarding House and Woodville Garage (near where the former Marathon Station sat). Others who served as Postmaster: Stilwell Sivalls, Mary Sivalls, Louis Stein, Frank Perringer, and Arden Holley.

Charles Hildebrandt and Carl Kruse were the first rural mail carriers for which there is a record. Carl was an 18 year old when he started. The rural delivery was made using a horse and buggy and sometimes a sleigh. It would sometimes be dark when they finished their route of 75 mailboxes. Luther Miller was probably the first to use an automobile.

In more recent times during the 1930s and 1940s the Post Office was in a small block building sitting on the east end of the area now occupied by the Drug Store.

Woodville had the very special honor of a visit from Postmaster General William Farley on June 24, 1937, when Kenneth Faist was Postmaster.

The postal services moved to the present building in late 1950. Others who have served as postmaster: Glen Haas, Kenneth Lohr, Leonard Meyer and Margaret Emch. In more recent years, Leonard Obermyer, Curtis Faist and Duane Owen served as rural carriers.

Served is the key word. During the years that were simpler times when regulations were not so stringent, there is a story to be told about being not only the mail carrier, but also the deliverer of special services. Leonard Obermyer made a special stop to help a bedridden bachelor who had lost his mother and maiden aunt who had taken care of him. He was alone in his country farmhouse bedroom with a hot plate and necessary food supplies to sustain him. Leonard saw him each day and assisted him until the bachelor was able to leave the area and arrange for his care. Leonard was with the postal service for 34 years working in various positions.

Do you remember the Meyer twins? Lorrin and Leonard who were fondly known as "Inside Jack" and "Outside Jack."

DISEASES OF THE BLACK SWAMP

The prevailing diseases of the early settlers moving into the Black Swamp were of miasmatic origin. It was thought that vapors rising from the decomposing animal and vegetable matter caused a malaria type illness – ague/marsh fever/miasma. The fevers were most prevalent in the fall, and sometimes lingered on through the year. Attacks might occur daily, or every second or third day. The pale and sallow victims became very discouraged and grew weary of the doctor's bitter doses. The pioneers sought their own cures ingesting bitter plant potions. It was a question of was it better to try any cure or bravely "wear it out."

In 1834 the dreadful disease of cholera struck. In August of that year a boatload of immigrants arrived in Fremont, among them a traveling man. The traveling man went to the Western House Hotel and during the night he became ill and died the next day. Others at the hotel and the hotel owner and his wife became ill and died. The immigrants' camp was the scene of indescribable suffering. Many died without attendance and the living could scarcely bury the dead. People dared not take the sufferers in their homes as the disease spread so rapidly, and people would sometimes leave the area if they had relatives elsewhere, some place to go! Cholera struck in Woodville Township and some of the old timers tell the story of burials along creeks, whole families wiped out, and the fear of coming into contact with the victims.

In the winter of 1848-49 an exceedingly malignant type of erysipelas struck. This disease is an acute infectious disease of the skin or mucous membranes caused by streptococcus type bacteria and characterized by local inflammation and fever. The disease attacked many and was often fatal.

Other diseases that struck frequently were diphtheria and dysentery. Miasmatic fevers lessened as the swamp was drained; however, typhoid fever and scarlet fever and smallpox then appeared.

There is mention of a milk sickness called "the trembles" that was thought to be caused by the cows grazing on decayed vegetation. The symptoms were extreme lassitude, trembling and weakness in the limbs, especially the legs, loss of appetite and a peculiar offensive breath. The disease disappeared with the drainage of the Black Swamp and the use of enclosed pastures.

Such were the diseases of the early pioneers and what the early doctors tried to cure!

PHYSICIANS-SURGEONS

Very little information is available about the early doctors. It is believed that **Dr. Tucker** was the first to practice in Woodville staying about one year. **Dr. Manville** came here in 1833, and he built a small frame office building housing his medical office, a drug store, and a dry-goods store.

Dr. A. R. Ferguson came to Woodville in 1839 and remained in the community until 1862. He was an enterprising individual: a doctor with his own drug store, an interest in a dry-goods store, an ashery, a saw and grist mill, and he also built a tavern considered the nicest in Sandusky County at that time! He owned the first buggy ever in the town, and even painted it himself. His public spirit was recognized by his neighbors when they elected him to serve as the Justice of the Peace in Woodville Township. The doctor tried to get the Toledo, Norfolk & Cleveland Railroad to locate in Woodville; however, the line located to the east and passed through Elmore. He moved to Fremont and served two terms as Sandusky County Sheriff.

Dr. Frederick W. Jaeger and his two eldest sons came from Wurtenburg, Germany, in 1843, followed by his wife and younger children in 1844, first settling in Albany, New York. He came to Woodville in 1845 and practiced here until 1866. The Jaeger home was on the east side of Main Street and at the corner of Walnut Street and may have been moved to the back of the lot to make room for the bank building, now the library. After the Civil War, Jaeger went to Wisconsin, soon returned to Ohio locating in Elmore. **Dr. House** was an associate of Dr. Jaeger.

John Jaeger of Perrysburg performs reenactments presenting a program about being a doctor in the mid 1800s. He dresses as his great, great grandfather dressed and tells about the diseases and the hardships of the Black Swamp.

Many of the early doctors were highly respected and held in high esteem by the local towns people who elected them to political offices. **Dr. M. J. Carey** practiced medicine, owned his own drug store and livery stable; as well as serving as the first Mayor of Woodville when the village was incorporated in 1884.

Other doctors who served the Woodville area were: **Dr. Abraham Huffman** in about 1850, **Dr. Walker** and **Dr. Bell** who were from Fremont. **Dr. J. J. Bricker** practiced medicine and along with partner "Wash" Benedict manufactured wooden bowls in the 1870s. **Dr. George**, **Dr. Gorsuch** and **Dr. R. M. Durbin** were here in the 1890s, and **Dr. D. W. Philo** in the early 1900s. Many of the doctors had drug stores advertising the sale of drugs, medicine and chemicals. Dr. Durbin bought out the Cronenwett Drug Store business then located at the corner of Water Street and East Main Street.

Dr. Harvey Newell Trumbull was here around 1911 and his house and office were at the location of the present Post Office. He walked from his home to office through a summer kitchen without going outside. Later the summer kitchen was removed and the house turned around on the lot, remodeled and then became the home of Ervin Dewyre. The office portion later housed the Woodville News office. Later the creamery was located at this site.

Dr. Henry Busch was born in Germany and came to Woodville in 1866 taking over Dr. Jaeger's practice. He and his brother Adolph also operated a drug store located on Main Street between Lime and Elm (Harvey Knierim building location). Dr. Busch married Sophia Cronenwett, daughter of the Rev. George, and they built a fine brick house at the corner of Lime and Main Street. The cost of the house was $15,000 with 15 rooms and over 5,000 sq. ft. of living space. They raised a family of seven girls and one son. The family loved music and the Busch daughters gave lessons and recitals on their two Steinway pianos. (the Thorbahn home – 510 Main Street) An 1885 News Article states "Dr. Busch and his brother are portly gentlemen tipping the scales at 300 pounds!"

Another physician who cared for the people of the area for many, many years was **Dr. Frank G. Blanchard**. He studied at Western Reserve and started to practice in Pleasantville, PA. He came to Woodville in 1896 continuing here into the 1930s. His office was the small building second door from the corner of Lime and Main Streets, and his residence was the home to the east of the office. (the office was location of the library during the 1940s and his residence the Arthur Sandwisch home) The Blanchards had two daughters: Mrs. Byrd O'Connor and Mrs. Josie Vilbrandt.

During times of epidemics the local doctors were paid by the Board of Health of the Village to fumigate the houses. Invoices show that there was an outbreak of smallpox in 1913 and the cost was $10 to fumigate a house. Diptheria broke out in 1914 and that year the cost to fumigate was raised to $11 per house.

Dr. Chester G. Egger started his practice on July 1, 1923 in the former C. C. Layman law office at 212 West First Street where he rented space and later purchased the building. He graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in pharmacy. Later he attended Ohio State University where he earned his medical degree. He was on the staff of St. Charles, St. Vincent's, Mercy and Toledo Hospitals. He passed away in 1964 and was still seeing patients spanning 41 years of practice here in Woodville.

Dr. W. V. Stevenson came to town in 1933 and had his office in his home at 315 College Avenue across from the Legion Hall. He left in 1939 locating in Toledo where he specialized in optometry.

Dr. Glenn H. Walker, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, arrived in 1938 and started his practice in the West Main Street building used by Dr. Blanchard. Later he purchased the Dr. Henry Busch residence where he lived and also had his office. One year after his marriage to Alma Soldan he was called to active duty in World War II. Following the war he practiced medicine in the building back of the Library (107 South Walnut – currently the office of Dr. Laub, OD). He had a new office complex built by Joe Sandwisch on North Elm Street (now office of Dr. Glen Davis DDS). Dr. Walker retired in 1964 and moved to Colorado.

In August of 1953 **Dr. Karl Grubaugh** became an associate of Dr. Walker practicing at the new Elm Street office. Dr. Grubaugh was from Mansfield

and earned his BA and MA degrees from Ohio State University. He served in World War II spending three years at Ft. Sam Houston. He obtained his medical degree at the University of Vermont and interned at Toledo Hospital where he met his wife, Dorothy, head nurse in the Pediatrics Department. He was on the staff of St. Charles and Toledo Hospital and retired in June 1987 having served for 35 years here in Woodville.

Dr. Lloyd E. Drossel came to Woodville in 1940 and lived and worked in the former Dr. Stevenson house across from the Legion Hall. A native of Cleveland, his undergraduate work was at Western Reserve University, and his medical degree was earned at Boston University. He needed more space and built an office at 421 West Main Street in about 1945 (today the office of Nitschke Chiropractic). The office was designed by his brother and later an addition was added to the rear of the building, and the interior is finished in wormy chestnut – considered a rarity in wood. Dr. Drossel was on staff at Fremont Memorial Hospital and Flower Hospital in Toledo. He retired in 1975 because of failing health having spent 35 years serving the Woodville area.

Dr. P. I. Matthew and **Dr. K. A. Joseph** from Fremont began a part-time practice at 421 West Main Street on June 7, 1976. After a few years they closed the Woodville office and continued to practice in Fremont. The Rainbow Clinic staffed by St. Charles Hospital with **Dr. William Schlotterer** as physician followed. He remained here about two years and the clinic closed in the fall of 1983.

The Woodville Clinic opened in September 1984 at 111 West Main Street (now Country Hair Creations) staffed by **Dr. Riaz Chaudhary** and **Dr. Kewel Mahajan**. The clinic was a subsidiary of Oregon Clinic and the staffing included a cardiologist, two internists, one general surgeon, a podiatrist and pediatrician. The renovation consisted of three examination rooms, two doctor's offices, waiting area and business office. The clinic closed in late 1988.

The Family Health Center at 115 Water Street opened in 1983 staffed by St. Vincent's Medical Center personnel. Staffing started on a part-time basis with several doctors the first few years. In July 1985, **Dr. Charles Kahle** became the regular fulltime physician. Dr. Kahle is a Navy veteran whose undergraduate work was at the University of Toledo and his medical degree was earned at Ohio State University.

Dr. Duane L. Sander opened his Woodville practice in the late Dr. Drossel's office at 421 West Main Street in the fall of 1985. He relocated to his new building at 1100 West Main Street in the fall of 1989. Dr. Sander holds many degrees as his first career was as a high school teacher. He first attended Capital University, holds a MS in Genetics from the University of Toledo, and a medical degree from Medical College of Ohio

CHIROPRACTORS

Nitschke's Chiropractic Clinic has been open since July 1992 at 421 West Main Street. **Dr. Lon Nitschke** has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Bowling Green State University, Masters from the University of Toledo, DC degree from National College of Chiropractic Medicine in Chicago.

DENTISTS

Dr. Barnes practiced dentisty here in Woodville in about 1898. **Dr. H. J. Maxwell** was here at the turn of the century and early 1900s. His office was upstairs in the Kuhlman Block.

Dr. J. F. Lang came to Woodville in 1909. He graduated from Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and was class valedictorian. His first office was above the Doepker-Kaemming Hardware Store, and he worked there for a few years. He then moved his office to the building at 223 West Main Street. He practiced dentistry here in Woodville for well over 40 years! Dr. Lang also coached Woodville Normal basketball teams in the 1920s.

In 1953 Dr. Lang sold his dental practice to **Dr. Vernon Slotterbeck**, an Ohio State University graduate. He and his wife, Mary, came from Bloomdale, OH leaving one small town for another small town. Dr. Slotterbeck retired in late 1992 having spent nearly 40 years in our small town.

Dr. Kenneth Myers DDS purchased the business in the fall of 1992. Dr. Myers undergraduate degree

is from Ohio University and dental degree from Ohio State University.

Dr. Glen Davis DDS opened his dental office at 109 North Elm Street in 1992. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Michigan, and his dental degree was earned at Ohio State University.

OPTOMETRISTS

Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris, both Doctors of Optometry, established a practice at 107 S. Walnut Street along with offices in Toledo. Both doctors were graduates of Ohio State University and members of the American Optometric Association. Dr. Warren was a pioneer in the study of vision problems as they related to learning difficulties. The husband and wife doctors were here from 1950 until 1986.

Dr. Thomas Overburg opened a Woodville Office in 1987, followed by his associate **Dr. Deno Cosco** who was here until 1995.

Dr. Dennis R. Laub opened his Woodville practice in March 1996. He also has offices in Genoa and Oak Harbor. His optometry degree is from Ohio State University. Brother, **William L. Laub** is an optician with over 40 years of optical experience who works here at the S. Walnut Street office.

ATTORNEYS

The village's first resident lawyer was **Christopher C. Layman** who was born May 5, 1845 in Canton, Berne, Switzerland, and the family came to Ohio when he was two years old. He served in the Civil War and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1882. He was admitted to the bar in both Michigan and Ohio, and began his practice in Wood County coming to Woodville in 1884. His law office at the northeast corner of First Street and Cherry Street was built in 1890 and is an example of modest Italinate architecture. Mr. Layman was influential in the incorporation of the village and in the organization of the Woodville School District. He was also a Justice of the Peace and an agent for several insurance companies. He died in 1922 and his widow, Emma, continued the insurance business after his death.

C. C. Layman Law Offices
Caption in Stone: 1890

Dr. Chester E. Egger rented the law office building, later in 1933 after Mrs. Layman's death the doctor purchased the building and practiced here until 1964.

Attorney Thomas Shuster purchased the building in 1966 and it was once again a law office. **Gary Kohli** and **Gene Graves** were associates; however, no longer active in Woodville. Mr. Schuster has recently retired, and today **John Spore** and **Brian Craig** have their practice in the Layman Building.

Many other attorneys have had practices in Woodville and several have also served as village solicitor over the years. **Edmund Voorhees** practiced law in the early 1900s to the early 1930s and also sold Phenix Insurance. **Glen Haas** who was a graduate of Kelley's Island High School was once an associate of Voorhees and continued his practice into the 1960s. **Carl Zehner** and his sister, **Luella Zehner**, both had law practices in offices above the Keil Building. Attorneys who have had offices here in more recent years: **John Chambers, John Bronson, Scott Hicks, John J. Hunter, Sr.,** and **John J. Hunter, Jr.**

THE POWER OF EDUCATION: *"You have to read books, do well in school and study hard to go to space. You could even go to Mars. The first person to go to Mars is alive, we just don't know who it is yet - but it is someone around your age."* Colonel Tom Henricks quote at student assembly in the early 1900s.

RAILROADS

The first railroad in Woodville was laid in about 1872 and the line was known as The Toledo, Tiffin and Eastern Railroad. Each settlement along the line was usually promised a depot in exchange for a free right-of-way, and each developing town thought this would bring prosperity and growth; however, this was not always true.

Several realignments of ownership occurred over the years. The line became the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago in the 1880s. Early Woodville Village Council minutes from the 1890s through the 1920s often mention the TWV&O (The Toledo, Walhonding Valley & Ohio) asking them to mow weeds, take care of their property, etc. Council referred to the railway as The Pennsylvania, Ohio and Detroit when the second track was added in 1926.

Often the railroad was referred to as "The Pennsylvania" and later became The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR).

A rail spur still serves Luckey Farmers Elevator, and once continued down Bridge Street to serve Woodville Coal & Ice Company, and then crossed Main Street to serve The Bruns Mill, and later the Standard Oil Bulk Station.

In the earlier years following the turn of the century there was passenger train service from Woodville and a 1920s timetable lists two daily passenger trains running to the east and two daily passenger runs going west to Toledo. Regular passenger service probably ended in the early 1940s.

A steam passenger train, "The Red Arrow" used to run through Woodville on the way to New York City. "The Red Arrow" was special to Woodville as at times local residents were manning the engine. Emery Reimer served as the engineer and Haldon Huntebrinker was the fireman. The train would make a special non-scheduled stop for Ohio Hydrate's President Fred Witmer, Sr. when he made business trips to New York City. The Woodville High School Senior Class of 1955 along with their chaperones had the unique experience of having "The Red Arrow" stop right here in Woodville and take them on their class trip to New York City. In the last years of operation "The Red Arrow" was diesel powered, and Haldon was on board on the final run in the **late 1950s**. Later, Haldon became an engineer on freight runs.

Diesel Powered
"RED ARROW"

In the 1970s and 1980s during the peak years of lime production two freight trains, and sometimes an additional third run, left Woodville each day.

There were two train wrecks, the first in February 1936 when a vagrant traveling aboard a boxcar was killed. The second train wreck was in October 1966 when 18 cars derailed close to Luckey Farmers. Their fertilizer storage building was heavily damaged when two of the cars rammed the building.

Double Header Steam
"Highballing"

In the fall of 1968 the condition of the railroad bridge was so bad that trains were limited to traveling at no faster than 10 MPH. Bridge repairs were made and one track was removed at this time. Only a single track remains in use today.

The Pennsylvania Railroad merged with the New York Central becoming ConRail, today part of CSX and Norfolk Southern.

ELECTRIC RAILROADS/STREET CARS 1899 – 1938

The first council action on the development of electric railroads was March 23, 1893 when an application from Lake Erie and Northwestern Ohio Electric Street Railroad Light and Power Company for a franchise through the village was accepted. This line was never built in Woodville.

On May 3, 1893 council passed an ordinance approving the plans of Samuel F. Angus and Henry A. Haigh for the building of a street railroad. Street railroads ran within towns and the interurban services often used the same tracks negotiating trackage rights. **Finally in 1899, a 61 mile route from Toledo to Norwalk was developed known as the TF&N (Toledo, Fremont & Norwalk).** The line would leave Toledo, pass through Genoa and follow Lime Road due south and across the Toussaint Creek, and continue due south through open fields and into town crossing Water Street on the east side of the railroad track, cross the Portage River and continue eastward toward Fremont along Route 20 and terminate in Norwalk. The TF&N was mostly a roadside interurban geared to passenger service. Fremont was the operating headquarters for the line. By September 1900 cars were running as far as Fremont, and by January 1901 all the way to Norwalk.

On August 28, 1901 council approved an agreement for services by the LEBG&N (Lake Erie, Bowling Green & Napoleon Railroad). This line was to begin in Port Clinton, cross the TF&N tracks on Water Street in Woodville and continue down Main Street to Pemberville Road and head westward to Bowling Green and end in Defiance. The 11.5 mile run from Bowling Green to Pemberville was completed by 1902. **Finally, Pemberville to Woodville Service was completed by May 1905**, but the Pennsylvania Railroad would not allow the electric line to cross its tracks in Woodville to connect with the existing TF&N Line (TF&N later became part of The Lake Shore Electric Line). A federal judge granted the rights and the crossing was completed in 1906 linking the two lines. The LEBG&N could now proceed on eastward to Port Clinton; however, this never happened as the company went bankrupt in 1911. This was one of the interurban rail industry's first casualties. Woodville's service to Bowling Green lasted a mere 11 years.

LSE Street Car
Water Street Station

The Cleveland based Everett-Moore syndicate purchased the TF&N in August 1901 and by September the line was part of the LSE System (Lake Shore Electric Railway). The LSE ran interurban passenger cars, freight runs, and had streetcar operations in the cities. The LSE provided interurban service from Cleveland to Detroit with numerous junctions in between. Woodville residents were very dependent on the line riding to work or to shop in Toledo or Fremont. Some freight was carried and paperboys met a streetcar each day to receive the papers that they delivered door to door. Some old-timers tell of taking their cream to the station for shipment to the city. The electric streetcars reached speeds of sixty miles an hour in the open country and that was quite fast in those years. The interurban streetcars were staffed with a motorman and a conductor.

An advertising folder from 1920 shows that there were 16 daily eastbound streetcar runs and 14 westbound streetcar runs that stopped in Woodville. The trip to Toledo took 45 minutes. Toledo to Cleveland trips were 4 hours and 10 minutes in duration. Woodville also had Pennsylvania Railroad passenger service at this time with two trips each way per day.

LSE had a spur that ran into Gibsonburg using just one car shuttling to town from a Junction on Route 20 about mid-point between SR 300 and CR 62. The raised bed is still visible through the pasture field. At the peak service, there were 13 round trips per day into Gibsonburg.

Second Streetcar Station

The LSE was a very successful operation and in 1923 a new and bigger station was built in Woodville as well as other improvements along the line. However, times were rapidly changing and most people owned automobiles and enjoyed the independence of coming and going without meeting a timetable. **The last passenger streetcar run was May 15, 1938.** (In Woodville the bridge piers for the LSE are still in the river just east of the railroad bridge).

BUS SERVICE

As the tracks were deteriorating and some sections removed, the LSE started to provide bus service to supplement the street railroad system. This bus fleet was expanded when all street railroad service stopped, and the Lake Shore Coach Lines, Inc. then began serving the same towns. Later, new ownership called the bus service the Lake Shore System.

In the early 1950s ownership changed once again and Woodville was served by Buckeye Stages with four eastbound and four westbound bus trips daily. Bus service continued to diminish and ended sometime in the 1970s leaving Woodville and many other small towns with no public transportation.

THE OIL BOOM

The search for underground wealth started with the discovery of natural gas near Findlay in 1884. In our area natural gas was found in shallow drillings, and usually provided only enough gas to be used on the premises.

In 1887 a well was drilled at Gibsonburg for natural gas; however, at 1,237 feet in the Trenton limestone oil flowed at the rate of fifty barrels per day. This was the first producing oil well in the county. The first well drilled in our area exclusively for oil was in 1888, which after being shot, yielded 200 barrels per day. Producing wells in Sandusky County were in the western tier of townships including Woodville, Madison, Jackson and Washington Townships.

Records show that the number of oil wells sunk in Sandusky County for the nine-year span between 1891 to 1899 was 4,347 of which 4,032 were considered to be producing wells. Most of the wells were of ordinary size producing from 25 to 100 barrels a day, but there were over twenty in Woodville Township that produced from 500 to 1000 barrels a day. The price for oil was 15 cents per barrel.

The great gusher of the field was struck on November 15, 1894 by T. E. & J. W. Kirkbride on the Benjamin Jones farm in Madison Township, four miles west and one mile south of Gibsonburg. This well was known as the second largest well completed on the continent and started at 20,000 barrels. For the first thirty days the well averaged a production of better than 7,000 barrels a day and during its existence made its owners a fortune.

Local sawmills made wooden "sucker rods" for the oil wells years ago. Specially selected lumber was

sawed into strips about two inches square and of various lengths. The pieces were then run through special planers which converted them from square to octagonal in shape and metal coupling pieces were attached to each end.

Miss Hattie Keil's recollections of the Oil Boom Days: *"when the oil men from the east came to town there just wasn't enough room for them all to sleep. Many of them would sleep in the bandstand at night. We took in roomers at our house even though father didn't approve at first. Everyone took in roomers."* Asked if oil wells were drilled on her family's land, Miss Keil replied with a smile, *"yes, father drilled and got a dry hole*!"

Waste oil was allowed to flow down to the Portage River from oil fields in Wood County and Woodville Township. Fishing ended with the advent of the oil boom. Some news items from THE ELMORE INDEPENDENT follow:

June 1896: *The Ottawa County Commisioners are trying to devise measures which will enable them to destroy oil which Wood County is floating down the river. Oil is getting cheaper on the market and thicker on the water in proportion as the market weakens. There is nothing left for Ottawa County to do but to importune the Standard Oil to raise the price of the raw material.*

March 1888: *Thousands of barrels of oil have been flowing down the Portage River the past few days, having been washed out of the ditches and ponds of Wood County by the recent heavy rains. When set afire the blaze reaches 10 or 12 feet in height. Oil men should be compelled to run their waste oil into large holes in the ground and burn it.*

June 1888: *The oil in the river is poisoning the fish. The stench rising from the oil and dead fish is terrible. Even cattle, horses and sheep are reported as dying from the effects of the stagnant poisons in the river.*

May 1889: *Oil on the river caught fire east of Oak Harbor, burned 100 cords of wood and destroyed a barn and house. Oil burning in Oak Harbor village also caused some damage. It is no uncommon thing for fire to be seen at most any point along the river now.....and there is great danger of many thousands of dollars worth of damage at most any time.*

News articles also indicated that a dredge operating near Oak Harbor and factory boilers could not use river water because of the pollution and hauled water from Lake Erie. There is much written about court challenges; however, no workable solutions were found. Pollution was a downside to the great oil boom.

The Mauntler Brothers, John F., George H., and Frederick L., sons of Henry and Mary C. Myers Mauntler were oil producers beginning in 1893. In 1901 they piped gas to Elmore furnishing the village with gas under the name of Mauntler Brothers & Company.

The Oil Boom ended in about 1905, but during the short period of less than two decades the oil business added a big boost to the local economy. Oil brought great prosperity to Woodville and Woodville Township. Many of the farmers with wells on their property retired and moved to town building fine large homes. As the drilling diminished, the oil workers left for other oil fields, but some did remain and become a permanent part of the community.

Chronology of the Lime Industry

Martin Marietta Corporation

- Late 1840s - Fred Miller manufactured lime on his farmland **northeast of the Gold Hill section of the cemetery** off Lime Road. He hauled the wagonloads of lime to Perrysburg and to Toledo.
- 1874 Map - Matt Hess purchased the Fred Miller ground. The Matt Hess Plant is shown on the map.
- 1880s - Daniel Baker starts to manufacture lime in pot kilns.
- Mar. 1888 - Daniel Baker and his sons (Daniel, William and Joseph) form a corporation – Standard Lime and Stone Company – this was a quarrying operation.
- At about the same time, another group of investors purchased the William Babione **property on Lime Road** as the site for the finishing lime facility that was known as Washington Building Lime Company.
- Sometime in the 1930s the two ventures became one and operated as Standard Lime & Stone Company.
- 1954 – Plant is sold to American Marietta Company.
- 1961 – Now known as Martin Marietta Corporation as the result of more corporate mergers.

Company Housing: Company houses were located just north of the plant on the east side of Lime Road. There were two rows of houses (about where the tall stacks stand today) and two more houses further away from the road and behind the quarry at the edge of the woods.

Woodville Lime & Chemical Company

- 1874 Map – William Basey starts a two-kiln plant on **Lime Road just north of the railroad tracks**. Succeeded by Habeler and H. Rancamp.
- 1898 Atlas – Rancamp Lime Plant – named Woodville White Lime Company.
- 1903/04 – John J. Urschel purchased the Rancamp Plant – Woodville White Lime Company. Name changes over the years: Urschel White Lime Company, Woodville Lime Company, Woodville Lime & Cement Co., Woodville Lime Products Co., Woodville Lime & Chemical Company.
- Feb. 1, 1982 – Woodville Lime & Chemical Company is purchased by Martin Marietta Corporation and is now known as Martin Marietta South Plant.

Company Housing: Woodville Lime Products housing was on West Main Street, the small houses starting in about the middle of the block to the west of SR 105. There were blockhouses (masonry) that sat at the quarry's edge about where the scale house stands today. There were 3 or 4 frame houses immediately north of the block houses.

Ohio Lime Company

- 1916 – Formation of Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company on William Price, Sr.'s **farm ground off Anderson Road**. Plant is built per specifications of Arnold & Weigel, Lime Plant Engineers.
- 1941 – Buckite Refractories is purchased by the Hydrate from the Meyer brothers, Edward, Herbert and Albert. This plant is **east of the Hydrate** toward Gibsonburg.
- mid 1950s – Name changed to Ohio Lime Company. (see Bob Rieman's story for the continuation of the corporate changes to Ohio Lime Company).

Company Housing: There were company houses along Anderson Road south of the plant. Also, many of the houses in the Victoria Heights were built by Ohio Hydrate. All company houses for all the plants have either disappeared or have passed into private ownership.

Bruns Lime Company

- Opened September 1927 – where GLI property is today.
- Closed down in late 1928. (the quarry became "the swimming hole" for teenagers in the 1930s and 1940s)

The Union Hall

For many years the building that has been renovated and remodeled into Dr. Kahle's office was the Union Hall. The workers organized in 1933 as Workers International Union Number 237 – United Stone & Allied Product Workers CIO.

1874 map showing location of 2 early lime kilns.
A cross indicated early cemetery.

AN UPDATED HISTORY of the LIME INDUSTRY IN WOODVILLE

INTRODUCTION

I have puzzled for quite some time to tell you how Robert "Bob" Rieman and David Hummel got involved in the History of Woodville. It all happened at an Historical Society of Woodville September 2001 meeting when both of us were asked to write the history of the lime and limestone industry in Woodville. We reluctantly said "yes" never realizing what a horrendous and mind boggling project this would be. I assume we were asked due to our age and employment at Ohio Lime. I am 87 and a lifetime resident of Woodville, and David is also a lifetime resident. I worked 42 years at Ohio Lime Company, and retired in 1977 with the title of Manager Sales, Service and Traffic. While lime is in our blood, we are amateur historians. We will do our best, yet I know that when completed someone will say "Why did you not include this!" I assure you that we did not intentionally omit any person or bit of history.

The earth is very old. Geological studies state that it probably has been in existence for about four billion years. Somewhere in this period of time the earth was covered with ice. Streams of ice moved down mountainsides and spread over prairies and hills. At one time ice turned to water and seas advanced across the continents and laid down layers of sand and mud on their bottoms. There it formed such rocks as granite or produced such ores as iron, copper and other minerals. Molten lava filled pockets deep underground. Melted ice became torrents of water that in turn formed avalanches of mud, dirt and rock that scoured out lakes and streams and leaving deposits of dirt and rock scattered over the earth. At some period of time, sea creatures came into existence such as clams and small snails. Fossil clams are found in the three quarries in Woodville and trilobites in quarries in the Sylvania area. An excellent display by Lawrence Radeloff is in our Woodville Museum. Avalanches spread rocks of all kinds over all the earth. I have a rock in front of my home which was dug out of my basement, and on its' surface there are fossils of small sea creatures. Big evidence of avalanche rocks is at a field on the left side of Route 20 near the home of Bill Dewyre where many types of stone were dropped. Perhaps this section will be of little interest to some of you; however, I want you to know how Woodville has been blessed with a deposit of pure dolomitic limestone. It is known as the Niagara deposit and starts at the Niagara reef out in Lake Erie and is part of the Woodville deposit.

The Urschel family played a big part in the Woodville lime and limestone industry. J. J. Urschel of Bowling Green had a small two-kiln plant at Sugar Ridge, and he came to Woodville in 1903 to start the Woodville Lime Company when he purchased a small plant owned by H. Rancamp. At that time only lump lime could be produced and this was burned in his shaft kilns. A "one man" stone about six inches in length, and called "one man" was the right size for one man to handle. The stone had to be thrown in a small car which hauled it to the top and out of the quarry where it was dumped into the top of the shaft kiln and burned for the proper time and removed from the bottom of the kiln as "lump lime."

The quarry operation at that time was quite crude as compared to present day operation. The stone was blasted from the face of the quarry by gunpowder. The large size rock had to be blasted to a size that would fit the stone crusher that in turn created the lump lime size. To reduce the size of the larger stone, a man would stand on the top of a large size stone and would hold a steel bit. His partner with a sledge-hammer would pound the bit into the stone to a proper depth, and gun powder would be inserted and the big rock would be blown into small pieces.

The burned lump lime would be shipped in wood barrels to the dealer who in turn would sell it to the plasterer. The barrels were shipped by rail, and a myth still exists about a southern manufacturer who would place a bottle of whiskey in one barrel, and this increased his sales as the plasterers would try a lot of barrels to find the lucky barrel. This myth has never been disproved.

Making barrels provided work for a Woodville Sawmill owned by the Bittinger Brothers, Dan and Steve. Mr. Urschel's plant closed during the winter months and the Bittinger Brothers would stock the barrels around the plant for use in the summer time.

J. J. Urschel maintained the Urschel name in the lime industry as he had a son, George Urschel, Sr., who in turn had two sons, George Urschel, Jr. and Joseph Urschel. At the time of this writing George, Jr. lives in Perrysburg Township and brother Joseph in Tampa, Florida. An interesting sidelight – when Joseph graduated from high school, he attended West Point and when he graduated he joined the U. S. Army Air Corp. When released from the Air Corp he returned home to be with his brother George to operate the Woodville Lime and Chemical Company.

J. J. Urschel had a steam yacht Priscilla. This brings back memories for me. The boiler tubes in any steam engine periodically have to be cleaned. My father, Chris Rieman, was a millwright at the plant. A millwright can handle the repair of any machinery in the plant and could clean boiler tubes that would be covered with a hard film caused by the use of hard water from the quarry. J. J. would take Dad to Toledo where he would clean the yacht's boiler tubes. He stayed overnight on the boat, and would always enjoy a steak in the evening meal. George, Jr. and Joseph maintained a bird sanctuary in the woods surrounding the quarry.

I will now bring you up to date on the operation of a limestone quarry. The dirt on the top of the deposit had to be removed so that the drilling of the blast holes could be made. The drilling was done by the old-time water-well drilling machine. Depending on the depth of the blast, (fifty to ninety feet), one driller could probably drill at least one to two holes per day. Several drilling machines would be used. About fifteen to twenty holes could be blasted at one time. This was accomplished with the use of dynamite. When the wall of stone fell into the quarry, small track was laid from the crusher to the face of the blast and a steam SHAY locomotive, sometimes called a "dinkey" would haul the stone to the crusher in small side dump cars. When the area of stone on the floor of the quarry was used, then the track was hauled back to make room for the next blast.

Woodville residents have complained that a total blast would shake their homes, so the owners instead of blasting all the holes at once used a delayed method blasting the holes one at a time; with perhaps five to ten seconds between each hole, thus diminishing the loud and shaking effect of the blast.

At a later date this system was modernized. Today large front-end loaders load the limestone into large Euclid trucks that haul the stone to the crusher. Well drilling was eliminated by the use of the Joy Champion Drill that is a very fast rotary drill and eliminated all of the water well drills.

While I have tied this quarry operation in with the history of the Urschel family, the same description with possibly some variation is used in all of the Woodville area quarries.

OHIO HYDRATE & SUPPLY COMPANY - more recently known as Ohio Lime Company

William Price, Sr. owned farmland at the eastern outskirts of Woodville on Anderson Road and in 1916 the dirt on the property was removed down to the limestone deposit. The following stockholders were present for the first opening blast of the quarry: Ed Baker, Steve Biniker, George Keil, Fred Mauntler, E. J. Nieman, William Price. Arnold "Boots" Nieman, the ten year old son of E. J. Nieman was also present. Little did he know that many years later he eventually would become president of Ohio Lime Company. He and his wife, Eleanor, live at Wolf Creek Homes in Sylvania.

The first office of the company was located on the second floor of the Keil Brothers Hardware Store in the Keil Building, and you reached the office by climbing a steep-steel outside stairway. The first floor of the Keil Building is now occupied by Reflections of the Past.

Later the company purchased the hotel located on the corner of Portage and Main Street, and built an attractive two-story brick office building that is now owned by Mickey Pierce. The name Ohio Hydrate Company still exists as it is engraved in stone above the entrance steps.

Ohio Hydrate and Supply Company started with six shaft kilns and later included six more. At the height of the demand for lime and limestone it operated 36 shaft kilns and a rotary kiln for pebble lime. A rotary kiln for the manufacture of dried limestone for the sale of this product to the glass industry and the agricultural market.

They also operated the Buckite Plant that was purchased from the Meyer brothers, and it had four rotary kilns making dead burned dolomite for the steel plants. This product was used by the steel company's blast furnaces. The blast furnaces were lined with refractory brick, and when the furnace was drained of the melted red-hot contents, the dead burned dolomite was used as a patch where bricks were lost or became loose.

Hydrated finish lime was the final coat applied over gypsum plaster, and it made a beautiful white finish in every room for the new homeowner.

To make hydrated lime, raw lime from the shaft kiln was pulverized and then placed in the hydrator which was a large and tall cylindrical vessel. At the top a certain amount of water was added to a certain amount of pulverized raw lime, a steam reaction was made and as the mixture flowed down through various channels, it ended at the bottom as hydrated lime.

Arnold Nieman, Plant Chemist and Fred Witmer, Jr., Plant Engineer, invented an autoclave which acted on the same principle as a hydrator, but it had two to three inch steel walls where the raw lime and water developed such a high pressure that practically all of calcium and magnesium oxide was hydrated, and the final product was "autoclaved finish lime". This gave the plasterer a putty that was more plastic and was more easily applied to the wall.

When hydrated lime came on the market a package was needed. Mr. Bates of Wellsburg, West Virginia, owned Bates Bag Company and he invented a fifty-pound paper bag with an insert in the valve that prevented leakage. St. Regis invented a bagger machine that automatically shut off when the bag filled with fifty pounds. St. Regis established a bag factory on Summit Street in Toledo and played a prominent factor in supplying the lime manufacturers in this area. Several years ago it was purchased by another manufacturer, and the plant was closed.

At the present time considering that many lime plants in this area have gone out of business and that Gibsonburg has lost all of its plants and other plants have merged, we realize that the Villages of Gibsonburg, Clay Center, Genoa, and Woodville did enjoy a very prosperous time at the peak of the lime industry.

I started with Ohio Hydrate and Supply Company in 1935 as Traffic Clerk under the guidance of Traffic Manager, Frank Coombs, and President Fred Witmer, Sr. I not only was an employee, but after a year Fred and I became good friends. He also was an excellent advisor for me when I took night school courses on Traffic Management at the YMCA in Toledo and also at the University of Toledo.

When times were a little slack for us he would tell me about the boom times after World War I. When the veterans came home they built new homes which were a market for finish lime. Large government buildings in Washington, D.C. were being built. People had discovered Florida as a winter home, and a Mr. Flagler built the Florida East Coast Railroad that opened a big market in Florida. Finish lime was shipped in fifty-pound bags and the required amount for a boxcar was twenty-five ton. He said that boxcars became scarce and he would get cattle cars from the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the men at the plant would clean the cars and paper the sides with cardboard. When cattle cars were scarce, he would order gondolas. A gondola is a flat car with four or five foot sides and open top – no cover. After the cars were loaded, a canvas tarpaulin was used to protect the load. A charge was made for the tarpaulin and the dealer returned it by Railway Express, and he was given a credit on his invoice.

I can recall the same situation existed when I came home after serving in the United States Transportation Corp in World War II. Again the returning veterans would be building new homes, and would provide us with a good market. In the meantime Robert Brinker and Arnold Nieman invented a product called Sanlime. It was a mixture of finish lime, with silica sand and oxide colors. Six colors were available packaged in an attractive sample box. We usually sold our product through dealers, but for some reason Sanlime was sold directly to the homeowners. The demand for it was great for the colored sand finish eliminated wallpaper or painting. The sale all started by word of mouth, and at times the lady would say "I don't like any of your colors, could you match this piece of fabric?" I would send her out to the plant and usually our chemist would fill her request.

Frank Coombs also told me that while our finish lime was used in large government buildings in Washington, D.C., our firm was very proud of the fact that our finish lime was used in the Capitol Building in Havana, Cuba. Many years ago my wife Laura and I flew to Kingston, Jamaica, with a stop over in Havana. I wanted to visit the Capitol Building, but could not as our time was limited.

At the present time the history of Ohio Lime Company becomes rather complicated. When I retired in 1977 it was owned by General Refractories Company, who sold the plant to Steetley who in turn sold to Redland, and Redland to LaFarge, and LaFarge to Carmeuse Minerals. Now it becomes more complicated. Carmeuse owns the plant property, and sold the stone dryer plant to Great Lakes Calcium of Green Bay, Wisconsin, who sell kiln-dried granular limestone to the glass trade. Carmeuse leases the rotary lime kiln to Specialty Minerals which manufactures a product for the glass trade. Carmeuse owns and operates two rotary kilns at Millersville that manufactures lime for the steel trade. Ohio Lime Incorporated at Bettsville operates two rotary kilns which manufacture lime for the chemical trade. Ohio Lime maintains an office in Bettsville that employs two women. The operations at Woodville, Bettsville and Millersville employs probably a maximum of fifty men and two women. Ohio Lime at the height of productive activity employed from eighty to one hundred twenty men at the plant, nine men and twelve women in the office on Main Street. Checking these figures and the resulting payrolls, you can see that at the present time Woodville has suffered great economic loss.

BRUNS LIME COMPANY

There is a remnant of this company left today, and it is the quarry located on the GLI property about one mile east of Woodville on Route 20. Construction was started on May 27, 1927 and on September 23, 1927 the plant was operating.

William O'Connor was the plant superintendent. Arnold & Weigel was in charge of construction. The officers were Charles Kaemming, President and Treasurer, Frank Siegenthaler was Vice-President and C. C. Robinson was Secretary. September 30, 1927 was the formal opening date for the operation of the plant, and there was a large attendance. Stockholders were present from Columbus, Toledo and the local area. Three of the six kilns were started.

On January 25, 1929 stockholders of the Bruns Lime Company met in the Kaemming Building and elected directors for 1929. They were Charles Kaemming, C. C. Robinson, Fred Stausmire, Louis Donnels, Roy Stohl, W. W. Bowe, Ralph Hemminger, William Dromm, and H. H. Blausey. At this time the plant was closed, but the directors were optimistic that the plant would be put back into operation. While the company had heavy advance orders, the owners were beginning to have financial problems. On July 26, 1929 Frazier Reams, Trust Officer of the Commerce Savings Bank and Trust was appointed receiver of the Bruns Plant.

He provided a bond of $20,000.00. Previous to this a suit was filed by the F. Bissell Company of Toledo for principal and interest of $635.46 on a promissory note to Bissell by Bruns on December 18, 1928. At this time Bruns had estimated assets of $500,000 and liabilities over $210,000. The suit declared the firm had no credit or funds. On May 20, 1932 Frazier Reams authorized to enter into a thirty-day option to sell the Bruns plant for slightly over $50,000.00. On July 21, 1933 the Bruns plant was sold to Attorneys Wolfe and Rogers of Toledo for $35,000. This was the end for the Bruns Lime Company. A rumor exists that machinery and equipment was sold to a company in South America, but I can't verify it.

LABOR & MANAGEMENT

In the early 1930s labor gained great ground. It really started in Detroit when labor struck a large auto manufacturer and then spread to Toledo where a strike was ordered by labor on the Willys Overland Plant where for many days there was plenty of animosity and riotous actions. After many days it was settled, and the idea of a strike spread to the lime plants in this area. August 25, 1933 lime workers from Clay Center, Gibsonburg, Genoa, Luckey and Woodville met to consider forming a union. A union was organized and was named Workers International Union Number 237. On May 26, 1934 eighty Ohio Hydrate and Supply Company workers called a strike on the company

for recognition. On June 15, 1934 the strike ended with a union contract.

Note: The Bruns Lime Company and the Union Information was researched by David Hummel.

TRANSPORTATION – RAILROADS

The Rieman Family home was the last house on Lynn Street and two vacant lots brought us up to Pennsylvania Railroad. My brother and I had the front upstairs bedroom, and one summer morning in 1926 we heard a lot of noise, and we looked out the window and saw about twenty "mule skinners" and their mule teams equipped with plows and clam shell buckets. They built the classification yard from Genoa Road to Water Street. They built five tracks to accommodate all of the shipments from the three plants in Woodville. Four tracks were used for shipments to Mansfield, Canton, Columbus and Conway, Pennsylvania; and one track for Toledo where the cars were switched to railroads for the South and the West. At the same time a weigh scale was installed to weigh bulk shipments in covered hopper cars and open-top cars. The railroad assigned one switch engine and crew to Ohio Hydrate and Supply Company to take out the loads and bring in empty cars. One switch engine and crew was assigned to Standard Lime and Woodville Lime and Chemical Company.

Our President, Fred Witmer, Sr., made two or three business trips to New York City each year. Some how or other the railroad granted the privilege to him to stop the Red Arrow at Woodville. I would call the Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Toledo and ask for the stop. I would take Mr. Witmer to the station at the end of Walnut Street. At 6:00 P.M. the Red Arrow would glide to a stop. It took only a minute for Mr. Witmer to hop on the passenger car. I always remember this, for it was a thrill to see the beautiful passenger cars, and that tremendous large steam engine glide in for the stop. Emery Reimer, a Woodville man, had gained the top position of railroad engineers when he became a passenger train engineer, and he would always give me a big wave!

The Pennsylvania Railroad merged with the New York Central and became Penn Central, and then changed to ConRail, and today it is a part of CSX and Norfolk Southern. The Norfolk Southern sends a crew out of Toledo to Woodville and serves Martin Marietta and the former Ohio Lime plant and also the lime and stone plants at Bettsville and Millersville.

LAKE SHORE ELECTRIC RAILROAD

In 1899 The TF&N electric train lines began operation between Detroit and Cleveland (later the LSE). They carried passengers and also small freight in baggage cars, and also delivered the Toledo Blade and the Toledo News Bee to the stops along the line. Electric railroads did serve Woodville and the station, later demolished was located on Water Street just as you come over the railroad tracks. There is a remnant of this company, and it is the abutment that carried the tracks over the Portage River. The street cars were used by the Woodville people who worked in Toledo, and the service was appreciated by Woodville people who went shopping in the big city. I can remember my Dad taking Carl and I to Toledo to see the Ringling Brothers Circus. It made a fast trip, and in a straight line section of track could reach a speed of over 60 miles per hour. Autos and buses diminished its market, and it finally closed in 1938.

TRANSPORTATION – TRUCK LINES

When I started with Ohio Hydrate and Supply Company in 1935, Oscar Meyer had a Ford flatbed truck with a load capacity of five ton. He would haul five ton of bagged lime to Toledo, and some smaller cities in this area. The most distant haul would be to Cleveland. This did not last long when Norman Viers started flatbed trucks that could haul twelve ton loads to all points in Ohio and Indiana and Michigan. Later when Frank Lucki and his partner, John Bernath, purchased Viers Truck Line, they increased their tonnage to a higher weight. Their company was called HighwayTransportation. They later sold the company to Matlack which introduced covered-hopper trailers for the hauling of bulk lime and limestone. Matlack moved to Toledo and the place southwest of the village on SR 105 was vacant. In the last two years the property has been owned by Predator Truck Line and their equipment is covered-hopper trucks for bulk shipments. Woodville was also served by Craun Transportation out of Bettsville and Herr Truck Line out of Fremont.

BOOM AND BUST

Oil was discovered in the Woodville area in 1892 and the boom lasted until 1905 when the boom went bust. The lime industry has gone through a boom-bust cycle. Finish lime was the profitable product for the lime manufacturers for many years, but about twelve or fifteen years ago, someone invented drywall. I don't remember if this was Certainteed Products or US Gypsum, and this made finish lime obsolete, and shaft kilns were not needed. Woodville Lime & Chemical demolished forty-six shaft kilns. Ohio Lime Company demolished thirty-six shaft kilns, and when Martin Marietta purchased Standard Lime and Stone, they demolished all of Standard's shaft kilns.

When the steel mills were prosperous iron ore was melted in open hearth furnaces, and when the open hearth was emptied of its red hot molten steel contents, some of the refractory brick lining might become loose or drop out, and this is where roasted dolomite was used to patch the refractory brick. The demand for roasted dolomite was great, and one day we had a record shipment of forty-one covered hoppers out of our Buckite Plant. This boom was not to last, for someone invented the electric furnace that did not require roasted dolomite, and the market dried up for this product, and our company demolished and sold for junk four rotary kilns; and we and other lime and stone plants are in the bust cycle, with the exception of Martin Marietta.

MARTIN MARIETTA MAGNESIA SPECIALTIES, INC.

Martin Marietta purchased the plant of Standard Lime and Stone Company in 1954. It installed three rotary kilns at the location of the plant, and later it demolished the shaft kilns due to the loss of the hydrated finish lime market. When it purchased Woodville Lime and Chemical Company, it became the owner of two rotary kilns. The five rotary kilns produce lime for the steel and chemical plants. A large part of their lime goes to their plant at Manistee, Michigan, where salt brine from a salt well is added to the lime to make a chemical grade of magnesium oxide. At the Woodville Lime property another section manufactures a very high magnesium oxide which is used by the steel trade.

I doubt very much if the citizens of Woodville realize how important the lime plants were and are to the Woodville economy, and they have no idea of the cost of operation. When you go past the Martin Marietta plant and see those tremendous Euclid trucks and front-end loaders do you ever say "I wonder how much they cost?" Well here is the answer. The operation of a lime plant is not a "penny ante operation". The tremendous large Euclid truck is $500,000, the front-end loader costs $1,000,000. The fuel for the kiln is coal at a cost of several million, and the cost of electricity several million each year.

Large dust collectors have been placed on each kiln to meet EPA Standards at a tremendous cost. The company pays in excess of $400,000 per year in taxes, about $80,000 of which goes to the school system. Here is the good news....the company still has a plant and office payroll for one hundred and ninety employees. Think of what a boost for our economy when these two factors are considered. The company has always been civic minded and their latest project has been the attractive entrance to our cemetery built with stone from the mausoleum. I have been told that the future for Martin Marietta is very good, so I cannot put them in the "boom and bust" classification. Martin Marietta is a ray of sunshine for the future of Woodville.

One of the side light businesses attached to the lime industry was the firm of Arnold and Weigel. These two men were lime plant engineers, and they built an experimental kiln and office about one mile east of Woodville on the right hand side of Route 20. This property is now owned by James Johnson. They not only planned and supervised building kilns in the United States, but also in Mexico. One time I visited Mr. Weigel in his office, and he showed me a life-size silver rooster given to him by the Mexican owner of a kiln in appreciation for his good work.

Now I come to the end of our story of the lime industry and of the great prosperity the citizens of Woodville enjoyed from the employment at our lime and stone plants.

I never could have prepared this article without the assistance of the following:

- Arnold Nieman, retired President of Ohio Lime Company
- George Urschel, Jr., retired owner of Woodville Lime and Chemical Company
- Dennis Briggs, Sales Manager Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties, Inc.
- Virgil Shaw, Great Lakes Chemical
- David Hummel, an Ohio Lime Company employee who researched the Bruns Lime Company and the article on Management and Labor
- Mary Lou Busdiecker who for many years was my secretary at Ohio Lime. She is my proof-reader and typist.

I thank all of you for your time and assistance, and I wish all of you the best of everything for the future.

Robert "Bob" Rieman
January 14, 2002

Aerial View - about 1940
Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company
Note: company houses along Anderson Road

Martin Marietta

CB TALK (overheard on local base station - two ladies driving through on Route 20 who were in communication on their CB's). They read the sign about Woodville being the "Lime Center of the World" and commented that they didn't know that limes were grown this far North.

EARLY CHURCHES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services began as early as 1843 led by a Missionary Priest, Father Rappe. In 1851 he helped the Catholic pioneers organize and convert a dwelling into a house of worship that was used until 1862. That year a red brick church was erected and dedicated by the congregation of about seventy. The church building had a white cupola and steeple with a white picket fence at the front. The parish was served by priests from Elmore and in 1882 a Father Reiken was the last for which there is any record. The church building was located on the north side of Main Street about midway between Cherry and Elm Streets (the former Hagemeyer house at 310 West Main Street).

THE GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The society of about twenty members organized in 1843. The first trustees were Henry Seabert, Fred Miller, Fred Gerke, Andrew Nuhfer, and Fred Steinkamp. Rev. E. Reinschneider was the first pastor who had preached in Woodville prior to the formal organization. The first house of worship was in the old Phile Clock Factory that was used only a short time, and then sold to the United Brethren congregation. In 1844 the congregation moved into a new frame building located on a triangular lot bordered by Bridge, First and Water Streets (Motel site).

German Methodist Church

When the Villbrandt Boarding House located about a half block away burned, the church was nearly destroyed by fire before anyone knew it, because everyone was watching the boarding house fire.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This church was organized in 1844 with about thirty members. The first pastor was Rev. William Norton; and the first stewards were Stephen Brown and Ephraim Wood, Jr. A Sunday School was also organized and members met in an old schoolhouse until the Union Church was built.

THE UNION CHURCH

On February 26, 1859 the Methodists, Episcopals and Presbyterians combined and erected an edifice called the Union Church with each society having a representative on the church board. Names on the deed: Almon Dunham, A. Nuhfer, Elizabeth Bauchman and Charles Powers - Trustees of the Woodville Union Association.

The Presbyterians and Evangelicals became extinct and an 1892 deed transferred ownership to Young People's Christian Association. In 1901 the YPCA transferred ownership to the Woodville Society Methodist Episcopal Church, and soon that church also closed.

In 1909 by judicial authority, the property was transferred to Solomon Lutheran Church for contemplated educational purposes. Solomon turned the building over to Woodville Normal in 1910, and the Normal held ownership until they closed in 1925. This building was located on South Cherry Street near the northeast corner of Cherry and College Avenue and became known as "The Boarding House." (see continuation of the building history in the Woodville Normal article).

MEMORIES - the power of the penny?
1 cent post cards and 3 cent regular stamps, and candy counters with large selections of individually wrapped candy and gum.

TODAY'S CHURCHES

SOLOMON LUTHERAN CHURCH

German people started to settle into the Black Swamp in 1833. They were skilled workers in wood, iron, and leather and the wives were proficient with the spinning wheel and loom. They were hardy and devout Lutherans who brought their hymn books and prayer books from Germany. However, they had no minister. Pastor Adolph A. Konrad of Tiffin and his successor, Pastor J. J. Beilhartz were missionary preachers who made occasional visits to the Woodville area.

Church history of the Lutherans dates back to September 19, 1840, when the German Reformed Lutheran Church purchased Lot #31 from Amos E. Wood (site of the former parochial school at the southwest corner of College Avenue and Perry Streets). The trustees named in the deed were Peter Garble, Henry Myers and Garret Myers and the deed states "land purchased for the purpose of a meeting house."

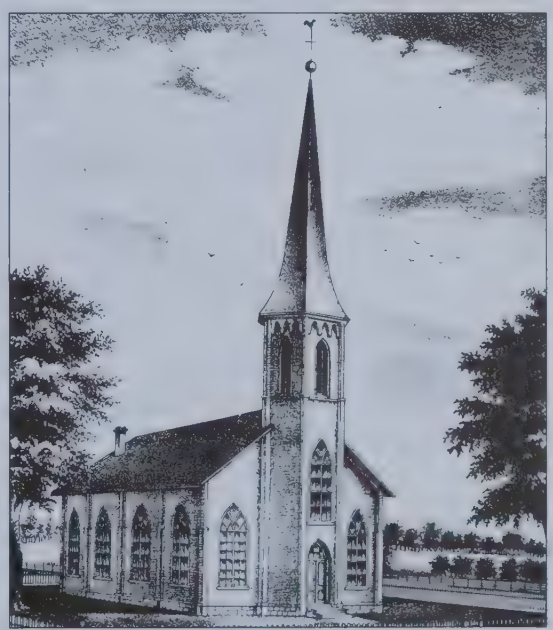
The first permanent Lutheran pastor in Woodville was Rev. George Cronenwett who was moved here by local men who went to Monroe with their teams and wagons to get the preacher and his family. He delivered his first sermon on the third Sunday in Advent, 1841. The family first lived in sort of a porch on one side of a wagon shop, one room with a stove and two beds and the roof leaked!

The first house of worship on Lot #31 was a frame 30 x 40' structure dedicated March 8, 1843. The church of 67 families was known as The German Evangelical Lutheran Reformed Church of Woodville.

There were no bridges and almost no roads in the area; however, Rev. Cronenwett traveled the Black Swamp and organized thirteen congregations in Wood, Lucas and Sandusky Counties.

At the annual church meeting in 1858 the congregation resolved that "steps be taken toward a Parish School." A wooden frame structure opened at the College and Perry Streets location on January 20, 1862. The school was the first parochial school in the Black Swamp. This building was replaced by a brick structure in 1873.

In July 1863 four lots on Main Street were purchased. A new 45 x 75' brick gothic style church was built according to the dimensions of the temple of King Solomon. The church was constructed by Frederick Busman costing $6000. The Lutheran Solomon Church of Woodville was dedicated on Christmas Eve in 1865 and membership had increased to 80 families.



The Lutheran Solomon Church
Dedicated Christmas Eve 1865

Rev. Cronenwett, the pastor whose name will be cherished so long as the church endures, served for 47 years until his death on January 31, 1888. He preached 50,000 sermons, baptized 2,341, confirmed 2,730 and buried 1,214.

Rev. Paul Raether served from 1889-1903. During these years two rooms were added to the school, a larger church organ purchased, and electric lights were installed in the church.

Rev. Julius Bauch served on an interim basis until the Rev. Peter Langendorf came in 1904. He left in 1912.

Rev. Hermann Blohm was pastor from 1913 until 1922. Plans for extensive renovation of the church property were approved. Rev. William Nordsieck was an interim pastor when Blohm left.

Dr. Henry Lindemann came in 1923. The church interior was extensively remodeled, and Dr. Lindemann was instrumental in obtaining the ornate, beautiful wooden altar and statue of Christ that was carved in Obergam-mergan, Germany. The chancel area was enlarged and a new layer of brick added to the outside, the work completed in 1925. The brick parsonage next to the church was built in 1929. Dr. Lindemann was fluent in the German language and occasional services were still performed in German. This practice ended when he retired in 1947 after serving for 24 years.

Dr. Paul W. Nesper arrived in 1948, and he promoted and accomplished the building of the new Christian Day School and parish education building and improvements to the church proper. The new school adjoins the rear of the sanctuary with the main entry on Cherry Street. The new structure was dedicated March 30, 1952. The white frame parish house that stood at the corner of Main and Cherry was removed. (the building was relocated to Lynn Street near the railroad tracks).

Following Dr. Nesper's death in November 1960, the church was without a full-time pastor. Rev. Dr. Otto Gerbich, one of the many sons of the church who entered the ministry, retired to Woodville and assumed the duties while the congregation sought a minister.

The congregation of 450 families now needed two ministers. Rev. Carl Schneuker served from 1961 through 1984. Rev. Sheridan Widmark served the congregation as well as teaching in the parochial school from 1961 to 1963. Rev. Raymond E. Orth served from 1963 through 1974.

An auditorium, gymnasium and new kitchen were added to the educational building in 1974.

Also serving the Solomon congregation in recent years were the following:

Rev. David A. Thomas	1978-1985
Rev. Ted Dockter	1984-1985
Rev. Mark D. Honeck	1986-1990
Rev. Stephen S. Bull	1991-1996

Solomon Lutheran Church & Parish House

Current pastor Rev. William J. Duty came to Solomon Church in 1985. Cindy Getzinger serves as Lay Director of Pastoral Services, Carol Klohn is the Director of Adult Education/Fellowship, and Cheryl Sondergeld is Director of Youth Ministries.

The Solomon congregation has a rich and vital music program. A magnificent Schantz Pipe Organ was purchased in 1941 at a cost of $41,000. The organ was recently refurbished at a cost of $217,000. The instrument has three manuals, restored to 35 ranks, 2100 pipes with the longest being 16 feet and the shortest a mere 3/8 inch. Talented organist Linda Aspacher presents a varied musical program, as well as directing the beautiful choir. Music is an important part of worship at Solomon Lutheran Church.

The former red brick parsonage located next to the church is now used for meetings, and the white frame home across Elm Street to the west of the church is to be sold. Solomon has joined the growing number of churches who provide housing compensation allowing pastors to rent or to own the home of their choice.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The formation of the church began with small group meetings at the home of Jacob Sanders on Clink Ridge sometime between 1857 and 1862. Rev. Michael Long was assigned to serve a circuit consisting of Woodville, Elmore, Genoa, New Rochester, Householders Corners and the Ridge. He traveled the circuit by horseback and came as often as weather and roads and his time permitted.

During the four-year pastorate of Rev. J. M. Crim from 1873 to 1877 the old Phile factory building was purchased from the German M. E. Church and moved to the present church site that had been purchased from Mrs. Burman. Repairs were made to make the old factory building more church-like. A few years later in 1885 more renovations were made and the building was used until 1900.

In 1900 during the time of Rev. J. E. Hill the old building was sold (moved to the stock yard area, was used as a machine shop, and later burned down). The new church was built by William Molkenbur. Those serving as trustees at the time: George Nuhfer, F. F. Perringer, J. J. Bruehlman, R. B. Myer, William Sheffer and Fred Lentz.

United Brethren Church
Built in 1900

The congregation continued to grow and was designated as a "station" meaning that they could have a full-time pastor for just their own church. A parsonage would now be needed and the home of Mary Sivalls adjacent to the church was purchased for $5000. Rev. D. D. Corl moved into the parsonage in December 1937.

The church had been known as The United Brethren Church; however, in November 1946 The Evangelical Church formed a union with the UB Churches and the new name would be The Woodville Evangelical United Brethren Church.

In 1949 extensive remodeling took place enlarging the sanctuary, building a new chancel and the addition of a beautiful chancel window, a new alter and new pews and complete redecorating. Church member L. R. Molkenbur served as architect and contract supervisor, and the project was completed in time for the Christmas season.

It was apparent that more facilities were needed for education and fellowship. A building committee was formed: Olin Ross, Dallas Porter, Worthy Owens, Sanford Price, Glenn Graffice, Zene Smith, Don Morrison and William Nuhfer. Lots were purchased and the ground breaking ceremony took place October 1957. Just one year later the new Fellowship Hall was dedicated in October 1958.

In 1962 the church observed their 100th Anniversary during the pastorate of Rev. J. Paul Sutherland.

In 1968 the Evangelical UB Church and Methodist Church joined together as the United Methodist Church.

On Palm Sunday in 1976 a new Baldwin C-620 organ was dedicated. By 1979 all building debt had been retired.

However, it was not long before another building project took place when a newly designed entry was completed in 1990 connecting the church and fellowship hall.

The church has a rich history of beautiful music programs, and the choir has performed many, many cantatas. The youth programs and Sunday School programs are a rich part of worship. Also, the adult

Sunday School classes have raised large sums of money through their dinners, particularly successful is the annual November Election Night Supper. The noodles and the baked chicken linger in memory from one November to another!

United Methodist Church

It is the practice of the church conference to promote rotations among their pastors, and many fine ministers have served the Woodville congregation. Pastors are as follows starting when the church became a "station:"

D. D. Corl	1929-1938
Gerald Coen	1938-1943
Paul Zimmerman	1943-1947
Parker Young	1947-1956
David Weinzierl	1956-1960
J. Paul Sutherland	1960-1970
Charles R. Hanna	1970-1971
Mervyn L. Matteson	1971-1978
Carl Minter	1978-1981
Richard Thomas	1981-1991
Joe Miller	1991-1994
Dennis Dinger	1994-1997
Hugh Bowland	1997-2000
Mark Chow	2000-

In recent years the parsonage that once was located to the east of the church was sold and relocated to the site of the former Woodville Township Hall on North Perry Street. Today the pastor resides in a newer home provided by the congregation at 350 Pemberville Road.

TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The Ohio District Council of the Assemblies of God recognized the need for a "full gospel" church in the Portage Valley area. The old post office building (stood west of Past Times Remembered Antiques) was rented, renovations were made and the church's founding pastor was called in 1950. Rev. Edgar H. Mitchell received his theological training at Southwestern Seminary in Texas.

The congregation was growing and construction on their church on College Avenue started in October 1954 and a few months later in March the congregation moved to their new church. The dedication services were held on June 19, 1955. Just ten months later, there was a mortgage burning service! New pews were installed in 1965 and a new organ purchased in 1967. Rev. Mitchell served the church until May 1980.

Trinity Assembly of God Church

Other pastors and their times of service are as follows:

Pastor Terry D. Hunt.....May 1980 – May 1989
Pastor Don Turnwall.....May 1989 – October 1995
Pastor William Rawling...Feb.1996 – Aug 2001

Pastor Vern & Marlene Richmeier are the current pastors arriving in January 2001.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHAPEL

The local church was organized in July 1981 as a summer missionary project of the Maumee Valley Association of Baptists. Ed and Cathy Kopal from Mesquite, Texas were missionaries assigned to the Woodville area, and they began holding Backyard Bible clubs during the week and Sunday services at the Town Hall. The Genoa Baptist Church was designated as the sponsoring church.

Later in 1983, the East Toledo Baptist Church was named as the sponsoring church. Rev. William Dyer served as the pastor from 1984 to 1986.

In March 1991 the congregation now under the leadership of Pastor John Foster purchased a storefront building at 115 West Main Street, and they are still meeting there. The Rev. Harral Landry was pastor from 1993 through 1999, and he was followed by John Tidwell who served until May 2001.

The congregation was formally constituted as a church and incorporated as Woodville Baptist Church in February 2000. Matt Obee has been the pastor since June 2002, and the current membership is fifty-eight people, with an average attendance of thirteen each Sunday.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN COUNCIL

In the mid 1980s the United Methodist Church had a program entitled "Deeds of Mercy" and assembled Christmas food baskets. Solomon Lutheran's Outreach Committee was also involved with food baskets at holiday time. Doris Hoesman, a member of the Solomon Committee, felt that a community wide program would benefit more needy families and approached Pastor Rich Thomas of the United Methodist Church; and this was the birth of the Good Samaritan Council.

Representatives from the four churches in town (The United Methodist, Solomon Lutheran, Trinity Assembly of God, and Woodville Baptist Chapel) met and agreed that the **council's purpose is providing emergency assistance to people in need from Woodville and Woodville Township. Also, to act as a referral resource to those other agencies that can provide ongoing or more extensive assistance.**

Pastor Thomas was the first coordinator of the program. Doris Hoesman became the coordinator in 1990 and continues in that role. Currently, Kathy Kanipe serves as secretary, and Pastor William Duty acts as the treasurer. The council meets on an as needed basis.

In about 1993 it was brought to the attention of the council that some children in the Elementary School go to school hungry. As a result, cereals and snacks were supplied to the school and school personnel administer this program.

In the early years food was collected and distributed at Christmas, later two distributions per year were accomplished. The Food Pantry opened in May of 1996 in the Methodist Church basement, and there were 25 families who received food assistance. Participation has grown substantially and records for 2001 show that food was distributed to individuals on 1,475 occasions.

The Food Pantry was re-located in April 2002 when Woodville Village Council agreed to lease the village's former light and water building at 212 Bridge Street to the Good Samaritan Council for $1 per year. The Woodville Boy Scouts helped to prepare the site, and Scout Rick Hausman fulfilled his requirement for the Eagle Scout award with his work. Aid Association for Lutherans donated $200 toward the project and Lowe's of Fremont offered discounts on materials. The Boy Scouts helped move food to the new location.

The Food Pantry is open the last Friday of each month from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. Food for the pantry is purchased through the Northwest Ohio Food Bank in Toledo with donations of money and support from churches, businesses and community members. The local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts also collect food from the community each year.

Guidelines were revised in January 2001 to include all families in the Woodmore School District. The Good Samaritan Council also helps victims of fire, flood, or any other natural disaster.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS
WOODVILLE TWP. SCHOOLS

Education was a concern of the early settlers. Ira Benedict and Jared Plumb built small log cabins near their homes where their eldest girl would teach the younger children and a few of the neighbors children. Historians state that in 1836 John Moore purchased land with a small cabin that became a school when the Moore's built a larger cabin for their home. The location may have been on what is today SR 51 just north of the mud pike. Another historian tells of one John Scott teaching to earn his board with the classes held in a tavern near Sugar Creek. This was in 1837 (probably the establishment of C. B. Collins or Lewis Jennings that existed before the McBride Tavern). The following year a schoolhouse was built adjacent to the tavern.

Log schools and small frame schools were built and disappeared from the landscape with no record of exactly where they were located.

Real Estate records show that in March 1855 the Township purchased a lot in town from George Price located where the Donald Ragan residence is today at the corner of Cherry and Railroad Streets (now College Avenue). A two-room school was built here under the jurisdiction of the Township. Later in 1865 this school became the responsibility of the newly formed "Special School District" governed by town residents.

A historical reference states that on April 20, 1857, the board levied a half mill for German schools and a half mill for English schools, thus it appears German was taught in the public schools.

As the township grew more schools were added and rebuilt, remodeled, relocated and the exact locations are not known.

The oldest Township School minute book found covered the period April 1899 through 1917 ending when the schools were centralized.

The Township Board had jurisdiction over seven schools at the following locations around the turn of the century:

- #1 Junction School–Route 20 & SR 300
- #2 Emch School–CR 16 by Golf Course
- #4 Toussaint/Trapp–CR 165 off Lime Road
- #5 Sugar Creek/Osmos – near Buckite Plant
- #6 Clink School – CR 44 by Allwardt Farm
- Jt. #6 Krotzer Road–US 23 near the river
- #7 Henricks/Fork Sch.- CR 139 off SR 105

Note absence of a #3 – this school was part of the town district.

The first Emch School was at the NW corner of Route 20 and CR 16. When the Emch family built a new home, they donated land near the Toussaint Creek for the location of a new school.

Joint #6 Krotzer School received funding from Freedom Township and Madison Township, but was the responsibility of the Woodville Township Board.

A second school was built at the Henricks/Fork Site and although the newest of the country schools, it was the first to close, and in September 1912 students transferred to the school in town.

The only school that has totally disappeared from the landscape is the one located near the former Buckite Plant.

Excerpts from the 1899-1917 minute book:

- In 1899 teachers were paid $320.00 annually and $3.00 more per month to act as the janitor.
- Staff mentioned in 1899: Flora Bachman, Linda Gibson, Leroy Grant, Gusta Emch, Harry Babione, Freda Bachman and Minnie Faist.
- Staff listed for School Year 1904-05: Julia Bauch, May Gibson, N. P. Overmyer, Kathryn Babione, J. R. Diddon, Sophia Sandwisch and Freida Sandwisch.
- The Clerk's salary in 1908 was $65.00 annually.
- In 1913 G. W. Overmyer was hired as a Supervisor at $375.00 annually.

Centralization talks were many and the township wished to have a separate vote on the issue; however, and Attorney General's opinion ruled against such a vote. Many joint meetings were held working through the details of closing the country schools and becoming part of the Woodville Centralized School District.

The vote on centralization came March 27, 1917. Township voters opposed the change with only 33 votes for, 134 votes against. Village residents voted 199 votes for centralization and 33 votes

against. The vote count on an $80,000 Bond Issue was similar and both issues passed.

The last township board: Frank Clink, Louis Gerwin, Henry Hildebrant, Charles Osmos and Charles Trapp with H. H. Meyer as the Clerk-Treasurer.

Clink, Gerwin and Trapp were named to the re-organized Centralized School District board (story continues as part of the history of Town Schools).

#7 Henricks/Fork School - CR 139 off SR 105
Lydia Lang - Teacher

TOWN SCHOOLS
Special School District

Historians state the first schoolhouse in Woodville was built in 1836 and Catherine Seager was the teacher. Whether this was in the Town of Woodville or in the township is not known.

Other historical references are to a house of worship built by the Lutherans about 1839 which later became a schoolhouse. Another reference tells of a school where the blacksmith shop sat near the site of the Woodville Town Hall. There may have been a building here that was once used as an early church, later a schoolhouse and soon disappeared from the landscape as better buildings appeared. There may have been a town hall of sorts that preceded the one built in 1888.

We do know that the former Township #3 School was located at the corner of Cherry and Railroad Streets (College Avenue where Don Ragan home stands). The jurisdiction changed in 1865 when a "Special School District" was formed with a School Board made up of town residents. The schoolhouse was a one-story building with two rooms. An addition may have been added at a later date.

No records for the Special School District have been found for the period 1865-1878.

The oldest minute book found begins with an organizational meeting in April 1878 held at the home of J. H. Furry who was named President of the Board, Andrew Nuhfer was named Treasurer, and W. H. Bruns served as Clerk.

There was an elementary school at the corner of First Street and Perry Street which appeared to have grown with various additions.

First graders were housed in what we remember as the Township Hall sitting midway between First and Depot Streets. Clara Babione taught here for most of her teaching career.

In May 1878 four lots were purchased from Andrew Nuhfer for $550 in what is today known as Veterans Memorial Park on First Street. The dream was to eventually have a high school. In early years, elementary students that could pass a test called "The Boxwell" could then move to an area high school if they lived close enough or had transportation to get to an existing high school.

Construction on the new building started, but there were problems. Letters were written to the Secretary of State about contractors' work not being completed on a timely basis, etc. The partially completed building sat through a winter and sustained considerable damage to plaster and the interior had to be redone. The new building probably was not in use until School Year 1879-80. The structure cost approximately $9000 and the front faced Walnut Street.

The board approved a walk of oak lumber from the "pike" to the new schoolhouse and a fence and latticework in front of the privy.

George Worst was hired as Superintendent at a salary of $55.00 per month. Addie Reynolds was the Secondary teacher earning $28.00 per month, and Dora Zachaniah was the Primary teacher at $20.00 per month.

Woodville High School
Built 1879 - Demolished 1923

Board meetings were held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. A. T. Aller was hired as Superintendent for School Year 1881-82. An iron fence was erected in 1882 that appears in old pictures. The district's valuation was $304,733.

Newly adopted guidelines stated that students must maintain courteous and polite demeanor – no disrespectful language and there should be no use of tobacco.

Townspeople voted to become a **"Village District"** which was official in March 1887.

The minute book has many references concerning the purchase of coal. Epidemics were problems during these years with board action stating that all children must be vaccinated or attendance would be refused.

In the fall of 1889 the school was closed for six days because of an epidemic of diphtheria. School was closed for two weeks in SY 1890-91, but the specific disease not mentioned.

A new janitor was hired almost every school year until in 1891 when Mr. John Hossman took the position. He received $8.00 per month and an extra $100.00 per year for cleaning the privy.

Textbooks were locally approved based on State Approved Adoptions. There were three specific terms in the school year. The primary room was over-crowded and often the topic of discussion at board meetings.

Latin was added to the curriculum in SY 1894-95. Woodville School was graded as "first-class" and the graduates were eligible for entrance to state universities. School was closed for several days in February because 55 degrees temperature could not be maintained in the building. The Board discussed converting to natural gas.

Basil Brim and Henrietta Babione were the first graduates of Woodville High School in May 1896.

School was closed for five days in November 1897 for a diphtheria outbreak. The Sandusky County Superintendent conducted an exam of the graduates. There were scheduling conflicts between the German School (Solomon Lutheran) and the public school relating to catechism classes.

In the fall of 1899 a new furnace was purchased for $640.00. The primary grades continued to be over- crowded and no tuition students were to be accepted.

Janitor John Hossman passed away in December 1901 and school closed the day of his funeral. Rev. Otto Gerbich's nostalgic memory: *"Mr. Hossman endeared himself to young and old....before the service began, the entire school led by the Board of Education and teachers filed by his casket..... each person down to the youngest child placed a pink carnation upon the casket."* Hossman was a member of the small German Methodist Church and mourners wove around the block.

Salaries for SY 1903-04 were as follows:

W. H. Richardson, Supt.	$100/month
Laura Bauch, Teacher	$50/month
Ella Noggle "	45/ "
Clara Babione "	45/ "
Sadie Lucas "	50/ "
John Hartman, Janitor	28/ "

CICERO was required reading. Mr. J. W. Bruns complained that the boys were stealing his apples and a wire was placed between the school and the Bruns property at school expense.

There was a joint picnic with the Township School and German School. During 1905-06 football and lawn tennis were first discussed. Baseballs and equipment was purchased for male students!

Much more was happening and the minutes were becoming more detailed. Required reading for 9th graders was SILAS MARINER and the 8th graders read EVANGELINE. A grading policy was adopted: 75% passing, 65% failing, and in between was passing conditional.

The enrollment for SY 1909-10 was a total of 109. Payroll cost was $437.22 per month for the six staff members.

Students went on strike on April 23, 1911, and THE TOLEDO TIMES covered the incident.....an embarrassing situation for the Board. No reason was recorded in the minutes; however, 13 students were interrogated, and two students were expelled!

Again, an epidemic....the start of SY 1913-14 was delayed until every child showed proof of vaccination. Centralization was being discussed with the township board. Manual training was added to the curriculum.

An informational joint meeting was held with the Township Board in January 1916 with state officials, an architect and several contractors present. No actions were taken.

Minutes were now being typed and more expansive, and the Clerk and Treasurer position were consolidated.

Schools were closed in February and again in March of 1917 due to an outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

The vote for centralization successfully passed and the $80,000 bond issue was approved on March 27, 1917.

WOODVILLE CENTRALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT

On April 13, 1917, the new board met and elected Frank Clink from the former township board as the new president. The school district now employed a staff of 15 teachers and one janitor. The rural teachers continued to clean their schools.

There was a challenge to the vote on centralization. The County Prosecutor declared the issue duly voted; however, the bond issue had to go back on the ballot.

In the fall of 1918, Superintendent Wayne Moore's salary was increased to $1,500 annually. The County Board acted to close Clink School. The parents' protested, but no concessions were made.

A Ford Truck with a 12 ft. body was purchased for $1,011.18 including a War Tax of $10.88. J. E. Foster was hired as Bus Driver #1 at $2.00 daily.

The funding of a new centralized school building went before the voters in February 1919. The bond issue was heavily supported in the village and resisted in the rural area; however, the issue passed. Plans were now being made for a new school building. Bonds were to be issued for $80,000 in $500 denominations at 5¼% interest for a ten-year period (bonds were never sold).

A seven-acre site on West Main Street was purchased from the Busch family for $8,000 for the location of the new school (additional land purchased in more recent years has increased the present school property to nearly 36 acres).

Bids were obtained for the new brick schoolhouse. There were irregularities in the bidding, and township residents filed an injunction in September 1919 to enjoin any further work. There was a rumor of "an alleged newly formed school board" that wished to meet with the Village Board in an attempt to gain common understanding.

The Attorney General's opinion was that a de-consolidation vote by a "remnant" group of rural voters would not be legal.

H. G. Drinkwater was named Superintendent for School Year 1920-21. Esther Sandwisch was employed at Toussaint School, Helen Miller at Emch School and Alma Kruse at Junction School. This was the last reference to employment for the rural schools.

W. H. Bruns Company had a fire and could no longer serve as Book Agent and the Woodville Drug Company became the Book Agents.

Annual salaries for SY 1920-21 were as follows:

Superintendent	$2,000
Principal	1,200
High School Teacher	1,100
Grades 5-8	1,100
Rural Schools	1,000 plus $5.00 per month for cleaning

There were thirteen staff members, two bus drivers and one custodian.

Issuance of bonds once again went to the voters and passed in the village, failed in the rural area; but the combined vote passed by a mere 12 votes. Finally, in August 1921 bonds were sold for $90,000 in $1,000 denominations with interest at 6% for the period 1921-1939.

The board was not satisfied with the architectural firm from Lima and acted to enter into a new agreement with the Bowling Green firm of Stewart & Son.

The board re-advertised for bids due November 29, 1921. The bid opening was held at the Town Hall to accommodate all the bidders and interested citizens. The County Sheriff arrived and served an injunction to the Board President. The meeting adjourned so the board could confer with the County Prosecuting Attorney.

The Prosecutor upheld the board's right to proceed and William Molkenbur & Son was named as the General Contractor for the new school building. Construction started in the spring of 1922.

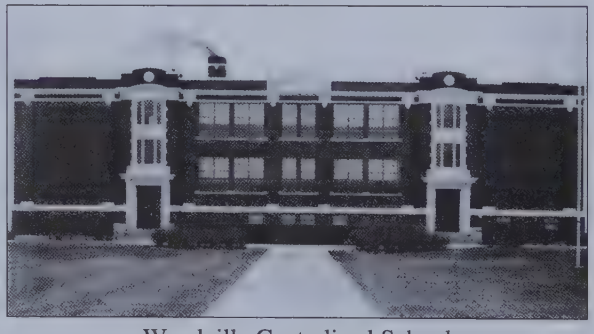
There was a fire in the Waterworks Park school building in January 1922 and William Molkenbur & Son was retained for $345.60 to make the necessary repairs.

J. J. Bruellman was named Superintendent for School Year 1922-23 at a salary of $2000. A "Garford" motor truck was purchased for $1,880.71.

Stage curtains for the new building were from LaSalle & Koch - $279.95. The interior painting was done by Irving Hoesman at cost of $390.

Three International busses with Wayne bodies were purchased for $1,754.88 each. There were now five bus runs, and gasoline was purchased from Standard Oil Company and a pump was installed at the new site.

The new school building was dedicated on October 12, 1923 with events scheduled from 9:30 AM through the evening. The evening meal was served "table d'hote" by the High School Alumni Association for 50 cents with the proceeds to benefit the school.



Woodville Centralized School
Picture from 1939 Yearbook

Members of the school board at this time: President Frank Clink, Frank Dunham, E. B. Emch, H. F. Keil, William Shaffer with E. R. Voorhees as Clerk.

The rural school buildings and lots in town were sold at public auction in September 1923 as follows:

- Junction School – L. H. Gerwin - $505
- Emch School – Ohio Hydrate - $435
- Toussaint School – D. Mollgaard - $385
- Sugar Creek School – Ohio Hydrate - $315
- Clink School – Ohio Hydrate - $260
- Krotzer Road School – Reuben Clink - $216
- Henricks School – Jim McClellan - $385
- 4 lots on First Street were sold to John L. Faist, Fred Witmer and A. H. Mauntler - $3,525

The district's remaining buildings were torn down in 1923 and 1924, and lumber and materials salvaged from the brick schoolhouse were used in the construction of the two homes on East First Street which were adjacent to the school to the east (Harry Karchner and Dallas Porter homes – 100 and 102 East First Street).

The ramshackle Elementary Building was also dismantled and became parts of three homes nearby; the home of Dan Bittinger and two houses on Depot Street.

This ended the era of First Graders being housed in the Township Hall Building. Clara Babione retired as First Grade Teacher having spent most of her 35-year teaching career in this small building.

The opening of the 1923 building started a new era for the public schools with a fine gymnasium, comfortable heating, electric lights, plumbing, and all the modern conveniences of the times.

Domestic Science was added to the curriculum and sewing machines were purchased. In 1929 the students requested and were granted permission to dance at the Prom. Dallas Porter was hired as a teacher in September 1929. He was named High School Principal in 1931, and later he served as the Superintendent from 1936 to 1950.

The question of employment of married female teachers was discussed, and the decision was that they could not be employed if married.

During the depression and post depression years there was difficulty with finances. Some funds were obtained at the State level and from the State Teachers Retirement System. In 1934 annual General Fund expenditures were $24,898.

Representatives from the Washington Lime Plant requested transportation for children living in the company houses on Lime Road and the board concurred and added a bus run.

Money continued to be a concern and the April 1935 minutes referred to a decision to defer payment of some bills due to lack of funds.

The smallest classes were those of the Depression Babies who entered school in the mid 1930s. In the late 1930s new busses that could seat 50 students were purchased and the number of runs reduced; the fleet of four snub-nose Internationals cost $2,183 per bus.

In 1942, A. W. Emch resigned the clerk's position after serving for 17 years.

In the 1950s enrollment was increasing and curriculum and programs needed more space as progress dictates. Major renovation was completed in 1953 that added an educational wing and a new gymnasium. The board at this time: President A. W. Emch, Walter Blausey, Alfred Magsig, Arthur Sanders and F. D. Witmer.

A new one-story building with seven classrooms and a Kindergarten room was completed in 1958 at a cost of $250,000. The cafeteria moved to the new building which featured a combination multi-purpose room/small gym.

On the board at this time in 1953: President Donald Sattler, Robert Heimsath, Alfred Magsig, Arthur Sanders, F. D. Witmer.

Another major change was the decision to merge the Woodville and Harris-Elmore School Districts. The boards met informally as early as 1967. Elmore voted to initiate a petition to transfer at their November 1967 election. The Elmore District became part of the Sandusky County Schools annexed to the Woodville Local School District effective June 3, 1968. Woodville voters did not vote on the decision because Elmore became part of the Sandusky County Schools; hence, part of the existing Woodville District. The formation of the district was called a "jointure." The Elmore and Woodville districts were similar in enrollment, real estate taxes levied and bonded indebtedness. Also, both districts sent students to Penta County Vocational School.

The members of the last Woodville Board of Education were as follows: President Robert Heimsath, Walter Busdiecker, Joseph Catalano, William Green and Paul Might.

Woodville's first graduation class was 2 students in 1896, the last class of 53 students graduated in 1968. The total graduates of Woodville High School are less than 1500. Each summer a Woodville High School reunion is held in the Beer Tent as part of the Fourth of July Celebration.

SCHOOL SONG
Woodville forever, we will sing to you,
We'll defend your standards in what er we do.
Hail, hail to Woodville High, round thy colors old,
We'll stick together for the purple and gold!

WOODMORE SCHOOLS

The district started School Year 1968-69 with students Kindergarten through 5th Grade attending Elementary School using the boundaries of the former Woodville/Elmore districts and attending in their respective communities. The Junior High School was at Woodville serving Grades 6 through 8. All high school students were housed at the Elmore Building.

The first Woodmore Board was as follows: President Robert Heimsath, William Green and Paul Might from the former Woodville Board, and Edgar Deitemyer and Mort Hanneman from the former Harris-Elmore Board.

There were 119 students in the first Woodmore Senior Class, about equal composition from Elmore and Woodville.

In the early 1970s all 5th Graders district-wide began attending school at the Woodville Site then known as the Intermediate School Building.

Another major change was the decision to house Kindergarten through 6th Grade at Woodville with Grades 7th through 12th housed at Elmore.

In November 1987 the voters approved a bond issue for new classrooms, labs, library/media center and gymnasium and renovations of the High School at Elmore; as well as renovations at the Woodville Elementary site.

The Class of 2003 will be members of the 35th graduation class of Woodmore High School! Years fly by and the first Woodmore graduates will soon have grandchildren who are entering school.

SOLOMON LUTHERAN PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

From the beginning the Lutheran settlers were concerned about the religious education of their children. After three years of planning, a frame school building was erected in 1861 on the south side of Railroad Street (now College Avenue) between Cherry and Perry Streets. This parish school that officially opened on January 20, 1862 was the first parochial school in the Black Swamp area with John F. Busman as the first teacher.

In 1873 the frame schoolhouse was replaced by a two-room brick structure. J. Henry Meyer, a lay member of the church, was the second teacher and Father Cronenwett took care of the religious training. The first trained teacher was John L. Fehr from Karlsruhe, Germany, who taught for ten years. The enrollment increased and in 1892 two more classrooms were added.

The school was used for teacher training by the Woodville Normal under the direction of Professor Carl Vogel. The school served children Grades 1

through 8 and had an enrollment between 110 to 120 students during these years.

Solomon Lutheran School (old school)
on College Avenue between Cherry and Perry Streets

Until the mid 1920s, the plumbing was outside in a frame building behind the school! The well-water pump stood near the northeast corner of the school and the pupils drank from one tin-cup that was chained to the pump. At first, slates were used for writing, gum chewing was not allowed, and there were no swings or slides on the playground.

The Parochial School stood at this location for over 90 years. The need for a modern structure with space to meet current educational standards resulted in the building of the new Parish House and Educational Building attached to the east of the church with the school's main entrance on Cherry Street. This building opened in 1952. Auditorium space and multi-purpose area was added in 1974 and named Cronenwett Hall in memory of the Rev. George Cronenwett, the first pastor of Solomon Church who served the congregation for almost 47 years.

Arthur H. Meyer taught for over a half century in parochial schools teaching at Solomon Lutheran from 1917 through 1955. Others who have taught here for over fifteen years are:

Prof. Carl Vogel	1891 – 1917
Lydia Nieman	1908 – 1938
Lulu Hohansee	1938 – 1954
Esther Sandwisch	1946 - 1964
Kay Nickelsen	1976 – present
Cindy Oelker Moreo	1980 – 1996
Janet Winters	1983 – present

Currently the school serves Grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 plus a Nursery School and enrollment is open to all. Food Service is provided and transportation is provided by Woodmore School. Currently, tuition is charged and some funding and programs are provided by the State of Ohio. The Solomon congregation supports the school with their donations – about 40% of the total cost of school operation.

Solomon Lutheran School
Cherry Street entrance - Cronenwett Hall to right

Solomon's students come from other towns in the area, as well as serving members of Solomon's congregation. The school is a mission of the church, as well as an integral part of the community.

The Lutheran School has been in continuous service for over one hundred and forty years!

WOODVILLE NORMAL AND ACADEMY 1880 – 1924

Rev. George Cronenwett and Rev. S. Poppen of Hessville Emanuel Lutheran Church met in the Spring of 1880 with the intention of forming a teachers' seminary. It was their intention to place the institution under the supervision of the Joint Synod and to eventually transfer the operation of the school to that body free of debt. The first task was to find a suitable building. Mr. Rudolph Hartman had an old wayside inn at the corner of Route 20 and SR 105 (Pemberville Road), and he offered his building rent-free.

The Lutherans of Solomon and Emanuel renovated the old inn and soon twenty young men came to the school. The first students did not pay tuition and room and board were provided. The good mothers of Solomon offered their services to take care of the washing and mending of the students' clothes. Various ministers served on the faculty and the first teacher was Mr. John Fehr. The school remained at the renovated inn from 1881 through November 1885. In 1882 the Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Churches took over the support of the school.

Solomon members Henry Bruns and Ben Otten donated land at the end of Elm Street off College Avenue for a new building. A 3-story brick building was dedicated on November 19, 1885. It was then called a seminary and the curriculum covered a period of five years.

Music was taught and included instruction in piano, pipe organ, violin, voice, theory or harmony and composition. There was opportunity for orchestral practice and for conducting orchestras and choirs. The curriculum also offered two-years of Latin, and a course in bookkeeping and commercial arithmetic.

On March 16, 1892 fire broke out and gutted the building. Temporary space was obtained and instruction continued. Mr. Fred Sandwisch was the contractor for the rebuilding, this time a 2-story building with wings on either side of the old structure. Construction was rapid for on October 8, 1893 the new structure was dedicated.

The school became co-educational in 1904. Enrollment peaked at 70 students in 1909. Mrs. Behrens, an excellent and energetic cook, had trouble finding places for the hungry boys and girls at the crowded tables in the two small dining rooms.

A vacated spacious church building, known as the Union or Lehman Church located on Cherry Street was purchased for $900, remodeled and the second floor was a dormitory for girls. Downstairs was a roomy kitchen and dining hall and dwelling space for the cook and her two children.

A fine gymnasium was built in 1915 that is now the property of the American Legion Post. Calisthenics and both boys and girls basketball teams were formed.

In 1916 the name of the school changed to Woodville Normal and Academy and it was accredited as a high school. The normal department was accredited in 1920.

Since more girls were enrolling, two large houses were purchased from Fred and Louis Hartman that were located on Main Street and were used as dorms.

The shock came in 1924 when the Ohio Synod voted to close the school and transfer its function to other church colleges.

Directors of the Woodville Normal and Academy were:

Rev. George Cronenwett	1880 – 1882
Rev. C. Huebner	1882 – 1884
Dr. Wm. Steinmann	1885 – 1888
Dr. Theophilus Mees	1888 – 1902
Rev. E. Gerfen	1903 – 1904
Rev. K. Hemminghaus	1906 – 1918
Dr. Carl F. Vogel	1919 – 1920
Rev. W. Nordsieck	1920 – 1924

A legal notice for the sale of the properties was advertised in the Woodville News in summer 1925. The main building faced College Avenue and stood deep upon the lot. It was in poor condition and there was no buyer; hence, it was razed in 1928. The cornerstone of the main building was dug up when the foundation for the Flick residence was built in the 1950s. They gave the cornerstone to the Sandwisch family, descendents of the builder of the main building.

Sophia Soldan, a former student of the academy, states that after the college closed, the moveable items including the pipe organ were taken to Columbus.

Another resident of Woodville took bricks and built a garage that still stands on the rear of the Bennington property on College Avenue. This fine house was the home of the Superintendent of the Normal School.

The bell from the Main Building was placed in the belfry of Grace Lutheran Church in Chicago. The bell had been obtained by Grace's Pastor Walter Wietzke who was a 1907 graduate of the Normal School. When the church disbanded in the 1960s, the building was sold to a Pentecostal congregation

with the Woodville Normal bell still in the belfry. There has been some interest in retrieving the bell, and perhaps someday the old bell will return as a visual reminder of the Normal School days.

The girls' dormitory and dining room on Cherry Street became a four-unit apartment building – still referred to by older local residents as "The Boarding House." In the late 1960s the building was razed to make room for a parking lot for Solomon Church and parochial school.

The rest of the normal property was plotted into lots by the Joint Synod of Ohio and sold for homes. Mr. Arnold "Boots" Nieman purchased one of these lots in 1929 for his residence. Mr. Nieman states: *"I live on what was once right field of the baseball field. I know.....I played ball here."* (now Rene and Steve Salander's home on Erie Street).

Several of the faculty moved to Columbus and some of them joined the Missouri Synod and continued their Christian labors.

NOTE: A very scholarly work, A CHRONICLE of the WOODVILLE NORMAL & ACADEMY was written by Dr. Carl F. Vogel and edited by Pastor Paul G. Fuchs of Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont. A copy of the book is at the museum.

(L to R) The Superintendent's House, Main Building, Gymnasium, Private Residence

AMERICAN LEGION CLARENCE L. NIEMAN POST #455

The Legion history began when nineteen World War I veterans met at the Town Hall on April 1, 1920 for the purpose of organizing the Woodville area legion post. The official organizational meeting followed on April 19th with John Horn of the Sandusky County Council assisting with the formation. By secret ballot it was decided to name the newly formed post, The Clarence L. Nieman Post #455. There were 24 charter members.

Clarence Nieman, son of funeral director Henry Nieman, served in the 327th Army Infantry and was killed in action in France on October 16, 1918. His body was returned to the United States and he is buried at Woodville Township Cemetery off Lime Road where an American flag flies at his gravesite.

Temporary officers were named: the first post commander was George Tapp, Vice-Commander Erna Tucker. Other officers were: F. W. Rolf, Rudolph Sandwisch, S. G. Price, Earl W. Blausey and A. C. Krueger.

Henry B. Herman, Paul Sandwisch and William Nuhfer drew up the first constitution. It was decided to meet every two weeks on a Friday evening. They rented an upstairs hall in the Charles Keil Building (109-111 E. Main Street – Alesi Building) and J. J. Urschel of Woodville Lime donated furniture for the meeting room. National, state and local dues were $1.75 per year.

The first permanent officers were elected July 20, 1920. They were as follows: Post Commander – Henry Herman, Vice-Commander – Paul Sandwisch. Other officers were: F. W. Rolf, Arthur Emch, Henry Weber, Harry Kaemming, S. G. Price, Arthur Krueger and Elmer Osmus.

Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day, was always solemnly observed with a memorial service. Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day, was usually the occasion for a dinner which was at one time a fund raiser and open to the public.

The Legion was a very social and fun-loving organization. A piano was purchased for the clubroom and multi-talented piano-player Alton Weigel was named the Entertainment Officer. The early minutes of the 1920s tell of many evenings of card games, oyster suppers, dances, stag parties and social hours. The Legion sponsored baseball games, community picnics and in 1922 sponsored a carnival.

The first Poppy Day was the Saturday before Decoration Day in 1923 when 1000 poppies were purchased and the sale netted $95.00 profit for the support of veterans.

The parade route for Memorial Day in 1924 was organized at the new centralized school building on Main Street and proceeded to the Portage River Bridge for the Navy ceremony and returned to the school for a program. Music was performed by The Woodville Band and the National Guard Unit of Woodville gave an exhibition drill.
NOTE: this is only reference found on "National Guard Unit of Woodville."

The Legion sponsored 4th of July Celebrations in 1924 and again in 1928 and 1929. The first car raffle for a Tudor Ford was held on Armistice Day in 1924. Tickets were 12 for $1.00 or 10 cents each. Mr. Spanfellner was the winner who went on his way rejoicing! (See the article on 4th of July Celebrations about other celebrations)

The stock market crashed in October 1929 and the years of the Great Depression that followed were difficult for many with unemployment, no money, not much hope of finding work. The Legion had an Employment Committee that tried to assist local people looking for work. The committee talked to politicians and Highway Department officials in an attempt to have local workers on the Route 20 bridge project. This effort was called "The War Against Depression." Legion members who were out of work were hired for custodial purposes at the Post. Every effort was made to help those in need.

For quite some time, the Legionnaires were looking for a building of their own. The Woodville Normal School had closed in 1925 and attempted to sell all their assets at that time; however, the gymnasium building was not sold and sat vacant. The Legion's building committee was charged with making a deal to purchase, but not to exceed $5,000. On June 30, 1930 the Legion became the owners of the former gymnasium building. There was some remodeling done and the Legion Hall was dedicated October 26, 1930.

American Legion Hall

The Legion itself became an organization in much need of funds. Paying routine bills and meeting debt obligation was a constant item of discussion and worry. The Legion held dances and more dances and dinners, feather parties with live birds, and worked with a fight promoter from Toledo staging boxing matches.

It was at this time during these difficult years that the ladies became involved. The gentlemen invited their wives to a Card Party in early January 1931 and then told them that they would really like to have an Auxiliary formed. Mrs. Alton Weigel was appointed as the Temporary Chair and the ladies held their first meeting on January 16th. The gentlemen met once again one week later and turned the kitchen over to the ladies!

During the Depression years the Legion sponsored smaller observances, but in August 1933 there was a grand celebration and homecoming for the dedication of the new Route 20 bridge (see article on Portage River Bridge.)

The Roosevelt Administration was known as "The New Deal" and the local Legion had their own "New Deal" which was an attempt to raise funds. Members able to boost the treasury by $1/month would then receive a payback at a later time. Meeting debt obligation to the Joint Synod of Ohio for the purchase of the building was of utmost concern, even selling the hall was considered.

Articles of Incorporation were filed in February 1936. Meeting debt obligation was of continuing concern and a new financial arrangement for the remaining $2600.00 of debt at 5% interest was made with the Joint Synod.

There was always a Feather Party with live birds in cages on display inside the hall with the larger inventory outside.

Numbers from 1938s venture: purchased 11 geese for $2.17 each, 12 chickens for $1.05 each, 29 turkeys at $2.46 each, and 20 ducks at $.83 each. The profit from the venture was $63.60. Live birds were raffled until in the early 1950s when frozen birds were used.

Numerous times there are references in the minutes that the Ladies Auxiliary had given $20-$25 to go toward paying the debt on the Legion Hall. The Legionnaires would acknowledge with a thank you note to the Auxiliary.

In 1941 two boys were sent to Buckeye Boy's State, one sponsored by the Legion and one sponsored by the Auxiliary.

On December 7, 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt declared war the next day referring to the attack as a "Day of Infamy". World War II changed many things.... the war changed lives and dreams and expectations as the country rallied to support the military and the war effort.

Locally, the Legion placed an enclosed bulletin board next to the bank for the purpose of displaying the names of the village and township men and women in military service. There was a continuing effort to be sure that the military received mail. Addresses were listed in the Woodville News. Food packages were mailed and Christmas boxes sent.

On the home scene there were paper drives, scrap metal collections, gathering of milk-weed pods for life vests, War Bond sales, gas-rationing and some food shortages. There was a Civil Defense Unit formed of about twenty local men along with the Police Department who were trained to react to an act of war, and fortunately WW II did not reach our shores.

When the war ended, locally, talk turned to the need for a better location for the library and the Legion joined with other groups making this a reality when the library moved into the Woodville Savings Bank (now the museum). The Legion and Fire Department worked together to develop a park near the footbridge – now Trailmarker Park. They

worked with the Garden Club to plan a children's Christmas Party. It was also time to resume the 4th of July Celebrations now jointly sponsored by the Legion and Fire Department.

The work of the Legion and their activity peaked as WW II members returned and joined the group. Activities in 1946 were sponsorship of three Boy's State candidates, a Junior Legion Baseball team, Halloween Party for children, and sponsorship of a Woodville Boy Scout Troop. They were also starting to explore the remodeling of the Legion Hall.

Remodeling plans were approved in April 1947 that included floor-type radiators and the removal of the chimneys. Also, a new roof using asbestos shingles was approved.

In October 1947 the first military funeral was for returned comrade, Buddy Biniker, and the minutes are very detailed on how this was to be accomplished.

The remodeling and renovations and changes to the kitchen continued and block for the counter was laid. Raising money to pay bills is mentioned frequently in 1948, short-term loans were obtained and by October the total reached $12,000 to complete the project.

Guidelines and a fee schedule for the rental of the hall were developed and an Open House was held on December 5, 1948 to show off the newly renovated building. Many wedding receptions, anniversaries and private parties have been held at the Legion Hall over the years.

Today the Legion is debt free having paid off obligations for the purchase of the building, and several later remodeling and renovations. Over the years they have held several mortgage burning parties as various debts were satisfied.

Many of the activities of the earlier years are continuing today. The Legion continues to sponsor Boys State candidates and the scouting programs, and they offer financial assistance to various boys and girls activities in the community. The Legion and Fire Department continue with the joint sponsorship of the 4th of July Celebrations. There have been over 60 years of celebrations plus a few more years prior to the joint sponsorship!

Memorial Day is now observed with a parade starting at the Legion Hall. The parade proceeds to the river for the dropping of the Navy memorial wreath, and onward to Veterans Memorial Park for the placement of a wreath at the Doughboy statue. The Woodmore band and chorus perform at the ceremony in the park. In the past few years a community breakfast is held back at the Legion Hall. The color guard goes to both local cemeteries firing a 21-gun salute followed by taps.

Women who have served in the military are eligible for membership in the Legion and Woodville's first female Legionnaire, Lynn Palmer, joined in June 1991 and has served as Vice-Commander.

A dinner for veterans and their guests is held on Veterans Day and at Christmastime. Membership is dwindling as the veterans of World War I and World War II age and are no longer with us. The census bureau confirms what many already know; the percentage of civilian vets in the country is falling. With the military smaller, and with the biggest conflicts deep in the past, our vets are slowing fading away.

Legion meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month with a social meeting on the third Thursday. Current officers: Commander – Douglas Sparks, Vice-Commander – James Johnson, Second Vice-Commander – Charles Bush.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion was formed following World War I, and for every man who served enduring the hardships of war, there was a woman serving at home to help make possible America's victory. As the returning veterans formed the American Legion as a service organization for veterans, the Auxiliary formed to assist in this effort. Women eligible to become members of the Legion Auxiliary are: mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and granddaughters of members of the Legion or any woman of the United States who has served in the Armed Forces. The Auxiliary feels that membership in the Auxiliary is a tribute to a loved one.

The men of the local Post #455 promoted the formation of the Auxiliary in early January 1931. There were 14 charter members when the group was officially recognized on June 16, 1931. The first officers were:

President – Esther Weigel

1st Vice President – Dora Sandwisch

2nd Vice President – Pearl Meyers

Secretary – Olive Hildebrant

Treasurer – Mae Geisbuhler

The Auxiliary helped the Legion pay off debt obligations for the Legion Hall and for remodeling of the hall and have given generous amounts to community services.

Caring for disabled veterans of all wars who are hospitalized and assisting other veterans to regain a place in civilian life is the main activity of the Auxiliary. They also sponsor the Cub Scout group, the annual Kiddie Parade, sell poppies to help disabled veterans, and sponsor Girls' State candidates.

Auxiliary meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Legion Hall. The present officers are: President – Dolores "Dodie" Johnson, Vice-President – Myra Lucki, Secretary – Ann Winters, Treasurer – Nina Fegley.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL

The life-size metal statue created by E. M. Viquesney and called the "Spirit of The American Doughboy" stands in Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of First and Walnut Streets. Only 131 of the genuine Viquesney statues have been located and 12 are in the State of Ohio. The memorial for the statue was designed by Alton Weigel, and Valentine Arnold did the masonry work. The front of the base contains a bronze plaque that reads, by line:

TO COMMEMORATE THOSE
WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES
IN THE WORLD WAR
1917 – 1919
DEDICATED TO THE
CLARENCE L. NIEMAN POST
NO. 455 AMERICAN LEGION
WOODVILLE, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 5, 1927
ERECTED BY
THE EXCHANGE CLUB
AND THE CITIZENS OF WOODVILLE

The rear of the base contains a plaque with the following:

LEST WE FORGET
1776 1812 1846 1861 1898 1917

Major repairs to the base of the statue were done in 1976 with funds raised by the Junior League of Women. Another plaque was placed in the front of the new base reading "Woodville Veterans Memorial Park, May 31, 1976." The park had been known as Waterworks Park.

In 1990 additional repairs were necessary and Legionnaires Ken Glassford, Atwell Gilmore and Ernest DiMasso applied for and received a grant from Martin Marietta to fund the project with labor furnished by the 612th Engineering Battalion of the Army National Guard. A wall was built around the statue with a sandstone cap and panel lights encased in the wall. Legion plaques are encased in the walls of the monument.

The site is nicely landscaped and at the annual Memorial Day ceremony, wreaths are placed at the base. The monument and statue continues to remind us of past conflicts…Lest We Forget.

Picture taken 4th of July 1936

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

In December 1996 the Woodville Kiwanis Club, Business and Civic Association and the Civic Club merged to form the Woodville Community Service Organization.

The three organizations were all experiencing declining membership and regrouped with the desire to keep their most important projects going. The first officers of the newly organized group were: President – Bob Meyer, Vice-President – Jim Brossia, and Secretary – Margaret Emch.

The organization sponsors the lighting of luminaries on Christmas Eve and the decorative lighting of the trees along Main Street, and the sale of popcorn balls to help finance these projects.

The club grants an annual $500 scholarship to a deserving Woodmore graduate, helps with donations for the annual 4th of July Fireworks, makes donations to worthwhile local projects; such as the drug dog and the Easter Egg Hunt. They continue to sponsor an annual Good Friday Breakfast and the summer Community Church Service at Trailmarker Park.

Adopt A Highway program is done four times a year. The club continues to work for the beautification and betterment of Woodville and its schools. Current officers are President – Ann Winters, Vice-President – Margaret Linke, and Secretary-Treasurer – Margaret Emch.

The club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the United Methodist Church Hall.

WOODVILLE GARDEN CLUB

The club organized in May of 1934 with 27 charter members whose purpose was "to beautify" the town. All of the charter members are now deceased, but their work lingers on in the beautification projects of the club. The ladies of the Garden Club were a fun loving group and had some good times while not losing sight of their ultimate goal of making the town a prettier place.

Today the club continues planting flowers in public areas and in the planter by the Post Office honoring former member Thelma Price.

A major project in 1946 was the development of the Roadside Park at Gibsonburg Junction when two acres of ground was cleared and trees were planted. The park was dedicated as a memorial to soldiers of World War II and was deeded to the State of Ohio. Due to changing times, the state closed many roadside facilities including this little park.

An ongoing project that started in 1954 is still evident today. The club hired an accredited landscape artist to develop long range plans for plantings at the public school. Many of the trees at the school have been planted by the Garden Club, and the club continues to support this effort.

The beautiful flowering crab trees along Main Street that are so attractively decorated at Holiday time were a club project.

The club enjoys their anniversaries. At the Silver Anniversary in 1959 there were four charter members present as they celebrated in the Caravan Room at the Holiday Inn. A Ruby 40th Anniversary event was observed in 1974 at The Depot at the Holiday Inn. The 50th Golden Anniversary in 1984 was held at The Angry Irishman here in Woodville with flowers from John Cousino gracing the tables!

Current officers are: President – Phyllis Wietelmann, Vice-President – Ruth Nedelco, Secretary – Virginia Andrews, and Treasurer – Dee Avers.

The Garden Club continues to serve the community and will soon observe their 70th year.

WOODVILLE JAYCEES

This organization is for young people ages 21-39 who are dedicated to the development of the individual for the betterment of the community. The organization provides members with leadership training obtained through community service. The first chapter of the Jaycees was chartered in 1960 and existed for about five years.

Another group was formed in April 1971. This group is most often remembered for two of their projects - the Haunted House that they ran with the Rossford Jaycees and the purchase of Woodville's first drug dog "Pup." Jerry Kepus was the first president, followed by Bob Meyer, Bill Hasselbach, John Kruse, Chuck Decant and Larry Snyder.

Gary Zajac was the president from 1979 to 1981 and the organization grew to 29 members. In 1981 the Jaycees started to sponsor the Beer Tent at the 4th of July Celebrations. The group sponsored and completed many community projects and earned the "Blue Chip" award for achievement in 1982. Jerry Dunn was the 1981-82 president, and he and Gary Zajac both were named outstanding local club presidents.

The chapter grew to 53 members in 1982-83 with Bob Schumacher as president and earned the second "Blue Chip" award. In 1983-84 Tom Dunn assumed the leadership and the club continued to grow adding a Country Music Festival and Ladies Appreciation Night along with continuing community projects, and received the third "Blue Chip" award. Then interest lagged and for a few years there was no active group.

However, in April 1997 the Jaycees was once again chartered with 25 members, and with Perry Jacobs as president. Projects include: Operation Sandman, the dunk tank at the 4th Celebration, the Woodville Charity Open at Hidden Hills Golf Course, Angel Tree at Christmas, Easter egg hunt, shooter's education program, bloodmobiles, Shoo-the-Flu, and Meet-the-Candidates Night.

Today the Jaycees have 32 members and recently Alfred Linke became the new president.

YOUTH GROUPS

BOY SCOUTS

There is a photo from 1912 that has the caption "first boy scout troop in Woodville" with Sanford Price as the scoutmaster. Boys who were scouts in the early 1940s remember attending campouts at the Christy Farm in Fremont, and going to Fremont for meetings. There was probably a loosely organized countywide scouting program during the earlier years. In the 1940s the two patrols met in the Union Hall (today Dr. Kahle's office). During World War II the scouts collected paper and scrap as part of the war effort. There are no known records from these earlier years.

The American Legion became the sponsoring group for Scout Troup #329 in November 1946, and meetings were held at the Legion Hall. The Legion then purchased a frame building that was moved to the park and after a few years a replacement masonry building was built in 1948. The following year the village assumed ownership, and the scouts continue to meet in this building.

Today Mike Collins is the scoutmaster to the current troop of 22 boys. Scouts focus on building character, leadership skills, and nature skills. They hold one campout every month, rain or snow, sun or sleet! They enjoy an annual trek to the Dorchester, Canada Camporee and this year will participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of aviation at the Air Force Museum in Dayton.

The first eagle scout of record was Charles W. "Bill" Heminger who earned the award in 1947. There have been 25 boys who have earned scouting's highest award.

CUB SCOUTS

The American Legion began to sponsor this program in May 1951, and today the Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Cub Scouts. The current Cubmaster is Bob Berfield and there are 39 boys from 1st Grade through 5th Grade participating in the program. In the late 1980s, first graders were invited to join as "Tiger Cubs" and the ranks progress through Wolf, Bear, and Webelos I and II.

Cub Scouts participate in Pinewood Derby, Lock-ins, Summer Day Camp, Father/Son Cake Bake, crafts and community service projects. Each year they enjoy a Blue & Gold Banquet, and over the years many resident moms and dads have served as "den" leaders with meetings in their homes or various community spots.

VENTURING CREW

This group formed in April 1999 and is also sponsored by the American Legion. Venturing is a program for both boys and girls ages 9th grade through age 20 with a focus on high adventure

outdoor activities. In 1999 the group attended Philmont Ranch. In 2000 they canoed 80 miles on the AuSable River in Michigan. In 2001 they backpacked in Southern Ohio, and in 2002 they visited Assateague Island in Maryland and Washington, D.C. This year they plan to return to Philmont Ranch.

Currently there are 15 in the program. Advisors have been Nancy and Doug Sparks and Jon Titkemeier. Andrew Schack recently earned the Ranger award given to an elite outdoorsman focusing on outdoor skills. Andrew is not only the Woodville Crew's first Ranger, but has the honor of being the first in the Erie Shores (Toledo Area) Council to receive the award.

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS

The local girl scout troop was probably organized in the late 1920s, and has always been part of the Maumee Valley Girl Scout Council that is celebrating their 91st year in 2003.

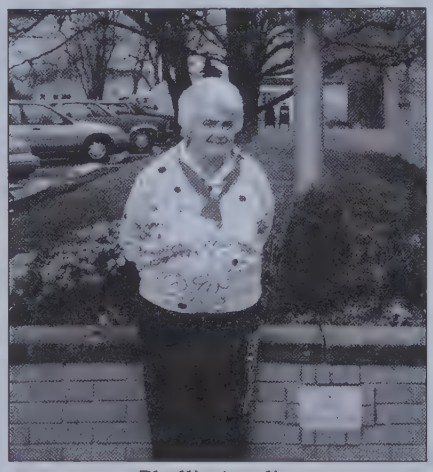
The Girl Scouting program has the following ranks: Daisies - kindergarten, Brownies – 1st to 3rd grade, Juniors – 4th to 6th grade, Cadet – 7th to 9th grade, and Seniors – 10th to 12th grade.

Woodville's six troops are led by mothers of the girls. The focus of the Girl Scouts is on exploring a wide variety of careers offered to women. They participate in a variety of crafts, sports, and camps. Funds are raised through the sale of Girl Scout cookies that now cost $3 a box. Scouts from Woodville, Gibsonburg and Genoa are known as the Portage Trails Troop.

Phyllis Ameling became a girl scout in the late 1920s, and became a leader when she took over her younger sister's troop. For many, many years the local "scout house" was the Ameling home. The basement walls were covered with scouting posters, safety signs, and there were always plenty of craft materials, and a stove and sink for working on cooking badges. Her husband, Harold, taught camping skills in their wooded backyard where the girls also practiced pitching a tent.

Mrs. Ameling was given her nickname "Brown Owl" based on a story told to Brownie Girl Scouts about a very wise brown owl. Mrs. Ameling observed her 65th year in girl scouting in May 2000. She was honored for her many years of service with a cake and ceremony, and also the planting of a tree in Trailmarker Park in her honor.

Her personal philosophy that she passed on to her assistants summarizes the motivation of many who work with youth. The very wise "Brown Owl" stated: *"I firmly believe that service to youth is the rent you pay for the privilege of living on this earth."*



Phyllis Ameling
"Brown Owl"

WOODVILLE BUCKEYES 4-H CLUB

Woodville Buckeyes are the oldest 4-H group in Sandusky County organized by C. F. Nuhfer in 1930. The club started as an agricultural and livestock group. The Woodville Busy Bees were organized in 1970 for those youngsters interested in home economics. By the late 1970s, the two groups combined and continued as the Woodville Buckeyes.

Today 4-H is a worldwide organization with each club governed by their own constitution and club standards. The clubs are not just for rural boys and girls, and today include a variety of projects and special interest groups; such as horse clubs, rabbit clubs, dog clubs, etc. 4-H is open to any boy or girl age 9 (or third grade) through age 19. Members work on a variety of projects all year long and take their projects to the Sandusky County Fair for judging. Currently there are 33 members in the club. Advisors are: Mary Schroeder, Rene Dix, Cathy Artressia, Shelley Bedford and Kim Berfield.

NO LONGER WITH US

Many, many changes have occurred over the years and some of the organizations of yesteryear are mentioned for their historic significance, and others because they were "just fun groups." Groups that were once active and for which documentation has been found are included. Do you remember any of the following groups?

C. C. LAYMAN WOMAN'S RELIEF CORP
December 1928 – January 1986

Nationally, the group was founded following the Civil War and it was to aid veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the Union Army. Woodville's group did not form until 1928 and the organizational meeting was held in the Exchange Hall that was then in the C. F. Kaemming Hardware building. The group adopted their name "C. C. Layman Corp" in honor of Attorney Layman who fought in the Civil War. Layman's widow, Emma, was a charter member of the Corp. The local organization continued the tradition by providing "relief" to veterans of later wars, and helped the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. Locally, the group provided flags to the schools. The ladies of the Corp always marched in all the local parades wearing white uniforms.

WOODVILLE COMMUNITY CHORUS
September 1962 – 1983

The chorus presented at least one concert each year and also sang at Memorial Day services and at the Community Church Service held on the Sunday prior to the 4th of July Celebration. Pastor Carl Schneuker was the director for several years. During the Lenten Season in 1963 two performances of John Stainer's CRUCIFIXION were presented and recorded. A Christmas Concert was also recorded that year. Mary Slotterbeck was the first President and Ann Meyer the first secretary of the group of over 40 performers.

WOODVILLE JUNIOR LEAGUE
1947 - 1978

The Junior League formed in 1947 with Mrs. George Owen as the first president, followed by Mrs. Herbert Lueke. Margery Lueke was a very talented poet and could convey a message poetically. She wrote the Junior League motto: "*I pledge my club a willing hand, to gladly help in all that's planned, to see each project to its end, but most of all to be a friend.*" The Junior League was a very active group that sponsored style shows, minstrel shows, and antique shows. Members of the Junior League solicited funds for the swimming pool in an organized campaign that was completed in just one week! The group became affiliated with Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs in 1962.

MOTHER'S CLUBS

"*A child well guided today, tomorrow will guide well his own destiny.*" This is the motto of the Child Conservation League. **Buttons & Bows CCL** formed in 1953 and was such a success that the **Lads & Lassies CCL** group was also formed just a few years later. This was at a time when there were still many stay-at-home moms who enjoyed an evening of club activity! Women's groups thrived and working for the betterment of family and children was their common goal. There was also a unique group that held a common bond – **The Mothers of Twins Club**. There were many sets of twins in town! In more recent years **Moms R US** CCL group was formed and disbanded after just a few years. One of their accomplishments that continues is the Woodmore After-Prom.

KIWANIS CLUB
March 1952 – 1966

Dr. Paul Nesper came to Woodville in 1948 to serve Solomon Lutheran Church. He had been a Kiwanian in West Virginia and promoted the formation of the Woodville club. Dr. Nesper was the first president and Dario Alesi was the first secretary of the club. This business and professional club meet once a week with a dinner meeting that was served by various Solomon church organizations. The Kiwanis International slogan "We Build" was directed toward the future through working with the present. Many of the club's projects were programs for youth, and also programs for the betterment of the community. The Kiwanis Club organized the community church services, and Good Friday Breakfast meetings, promoted the luminary program on Christmas Eve, alumni basketball games, holiday party for disabled children and many more community projects.

BUSINESS MEN'S CLUBS

The Woodville Business Men's Club held their first meeting in May 1926. Soon they became known as The Woodville Exchange Club and were very active throughout the 1930s and into the 1940s.

The club sponsored a band, and worked on projects for the betterment of the community. A Farmers Institute was an active group. In 1915 they had a picnic in Molkenbur's woods with the Genoa and Tinney Bands performing. They met in the Normal Auditorium in the 1920s. Later, in the mid 1940s there are many references to the Woodville Civic Club whose membership was nearly 50 per a clipping dated 1946. In the 1990s the Woodville Merchants Association promoted Olde Toll House Days and worked for betterment of the business community.

IN THE VERY EARLY 1900s

JUST-FOR-FUN!

There were many music groups and bands that performed. The Woodville Town Band performed on Saturday Nights at the Band Stand on Main Street. They had snappy uniforms as an early 1900s picture depicts. Barber Bill Seeger was interested in developing musical talent of the youth and a Junior Band performed 1910 to 1920. There was mention in the newspapers about a Maccabee Band that performed in the mid 1920s. There was the Exchange Club Band in the 1930s and the Fire Department Band, as well as a Drum & Bugle Corp – all performing for parades and events.

There is an early reference to an Opera House. There were many school plays and musical performances that were held at the Normal School and the public school. The museum has programs from many of these early events that were so popular before the days of radio and television entertainment.

Once there were free movies at "Woodville Tourist Park." Occasionally the circus came to town setting up on Findlay Road where the Fire Department Building now stands. The circus has also been in town in later years at Trailmarker Park. Medicine shows toured the small towns and will be remembered by our Senior citizens.

In more recent years, there have been dance studio groups and majorette corps. **Ronnie D & the Greasers** made us laugh from their first performance in 1983 until their last with their zany interpretations of our wackiest music from the 50s and 60s. **The Woodville Gad-Abouts** was a Camper's Club that enjoyed good food and friendship and had memorable Thanksgiving style dinners!

SIMILAR VIEW in 1986

MEMORIES - when housewives listened to radio's One Man's Family and became so engrossed in the story that it was a topic of discussion with friends. (One Man's Family was later on TV and had the distinction of being the longest running soap opera.)

MEMORIES - watching the test pattern on TV waiting for the programming to start. Early programming was very limited (early 1950s). Today we see the Gulf War live as it is happening.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

The stock market "crash" in October 1929 marked the beginning of the "Great Depression" which set the stage for a different kind of life in the 1930s. Most kids of that generation were brought up in homes where money was very tight. Many fathers were out of work or working at jobs where the pay was poor. Most mothers at this time did not work out of the home. They had all they could do to take care of their families on tight budgets. In spite of the poor economic times, kids still had fun and parents did their best to insulate their offspring from the worries they must have had concerning making ends meet.

The first story is about living in the village and being a "town" kid. The second story is about life in the country and points out some of the differences. Many country folk still lived very simply and had no modern conveniences; however, it was a good life.

LIFE IN TOWN IN THE 1930s

"City water" was made available in 1929 when Woodville completed building a water treatment plant and piped water to all parts of the town. Not everyone immediately hooked into the village water supply and continued to live with water pumped from their own private wells. Therefore, some families that had "city water" drank water from faucets in their kitchens and took their weekly Saturday night baths in spacious porcelain bathtubs. Those families that still had only their private wells took their weekly baths in the kitchen in large metal washtubs filled with water from the pump and heated on the stove.

Another benefit of the recently acquired "city water" was the luxury of having an inside toilet. Particularly on cold winter days and nights, or when not feeling well, the inside toilet was greatly appreciated. Of course, the outside privy served the purpose, but in addition to being an inconvenience, it was also an added expense to have it cleaned out periodically. Those who specialized in cleaning out these outside toilets were often referred to as "honey dumpers". It was always announced by the kids through the grapevine when these specialists were in the neighborhood. An audience soon gathered to watch, because it was rumored that one of the "honey dumpers" had fallen in once, and no one wanted to miss the chance to see if there would be a repeat performance.

Most homes were heated one way or another using coal as fuel. Some homes had space heaters in the center of the house. This arrangement was not the most desirable because it could get rather cold in rooms away from the heater. Another type of heating device was a furnace in which coal was burned to heat air that went through ducts in the floors and walls to registers that opened into the various rooms. Other homes burned coal to fire a boiler that heated water that was sent through pipes to radiators located in the different rooms. Regardless of the type of heating device, coal was the principal fuel and the smoke that resulted went up the chimney. One could always smell coal smoke when walking through town during the colder months.

Because the 1930s were economically not very good times for most people, kids became accustomed to hearing "we can't afford it now" when asking for things they wanted. They learned to do without and it wasn't such a bad lesson. Hand-me-down clothes and toys were accepted with gratitude. Mothers spent many hours "darning" socks and sewing patches on holes so their family members looked presentable. Could this be why older people today look aghast at young people who wear clothes with holes in them when they could have better? Knickers were usually worn by the boys until they reached the Junior High grades. These were trousers that closed around the knees. Heavy stockings that went over the knees kept the legs warm in the winter. Quite a few boys wore high top boots with a little side pocket for a jack-knife. Aviator helmets (ala Charles Lindbergh) with goggles provided the preferred head cover. Stocking caps were also worn on cold days. Girls wore dresses and never wore slacks to school. Leggings were acceptable attire for going outside in cold weather.

The public school had all twelve grades housed in the well-maintained building at the west end of Main and First Streets. The first six grades were in separate classrooms on the first floor. Grades seven through twelve moved from room to room on the second floor. The basement had a room for music, home economics, wood shop, boys and girls

locker rooms, the boiler room, boys and girls restrooms, and a small play room for days when the weather was inclement. Students were strictly forbidden from walking on the lawn in the front and west side of the building. The auditorium and gym floor were entered from the first floor hall or a steep stairway on the northeast side of the building. The gym floor and locker rooms were connected by winding stairs. Classrooms were lit with several incandescent light fixtures that hung from the ceiling. At the time, there seemed to be sufficient light; however, compared with the fluorescent lighting available today, it really was not very good. Lockers were located in each of the elementary classrooms where students hung their hats and coats and kept their dinner pails. Teachers sometimes put unruly students in the lockers to punish them for their misdeeds. More commonly, the unruly student was told to stand in the hall outside the classroom door. The most unfortunate thing to happen when sent to the hall was to have the superintendent pass by. He always wanted an explanation for being there and if it was serious enough he was known to hand out a few whacks with a small paddle he carried. These were the days when Mr. Zeller was the superintendent and Mr. Porter the principal. It may be unbelievable for young people today to learn that Miss Steinhauser, the first grade teacher, had a rubber hose that she sometimes used to spank the really bad kids.

Not having attended the parochial school, this writer can only report what he heard from friends concerning that schools activities. This school, supported by the Lutheran Church, had just eight grades. There were three classrooms and three teachers. In one classroom were the first and second grades, in another were the third, fourth, and fifth grades, and the sixth, seventh, and eighth in the third classroom. Discipline in this school was also quite severe in comparison to today's schools. Corporal punishment was handed out on a regular basis. Mr. Arthur Meyer was the head teacher and his favorite tool for paddling the unruly was a wooden sword. Religious instruction was worked into the curriculum plus the regular academic subjects. The parochial school was located on the southwest corner of College and Perry Streets. Both schools had the same hours. The starting bell ran at 9:00 AM and there was an hour lunch break from noon until one o'clock. Students who didn't ride the bus could go home for lunch. At 4:00 PM school was dismissed.

Entertainment was inexpensive and fun. Marbles, jacks, hide-and-seek, tin-can-annie, red-light green-light, jump rope, and hop-scotch were some of the games enjoyed by both girls and boys. Rougher games, such as football, basketball, and baseball or softball were more often played by boys, but girls sometimes participated. Girls more often played with dolls and paper dolls. Not everyone had all of the different equipment for the various ball games. Someone would furnish one type of ball and someone else might supply another. Sometimes the kid who furnished the ball would get upset over something, take his ball and go home. Then a new game had to be invented. There was no adult supervision of these games. There were no expensive uniforms or umpires. The ball diamonds and football fields were wherever there was an empty lot and many times a street with little traffic was chosen. Games began when enough kids gathered to choose sides and someone showed up with some necessary equipment. The games went on until the teams broke up when it was time to eat or go home to do school work or other tasks.

One could usually tell the time of day by the numerous whistles that blew in Woodville. The lime plants blew steam whistles at 7:30 A.M., 12:00 noon, and 4:00 P.M. There were passenger trains that ran on schedule and blew their whistles at the street crossings. The fire whistle blew at noon as it does now.

North Walnut Street attracted kids from all over town because it was the only concrete street that did not have a lot of traffic. Roller skating was the main attraction and this street was smooth and ideal. The skates of those days were not the fancy roller blades of today. The skates had steel ball-bearing wheels and clamped to one's shoes using a skate key. The skate key could also be used to adjust the length of the skate to accommodate the different shoe sizes. Most falls while skating occurred when the skate came loose from the shoe.

The fancy drill team of the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department used to practice during the warmer months on North Walnut Street. The practice often paid off when they won prizes for their good showing at the annual Firemen's Convention.

The Portage River also provided many hours of fun for Woodville's kids. During the spring and summer, a cane pole with hook, line and sinker

were used to soak some worms. Occasionally, a sunfish or carp could be brought to shore. Without swimming facilities available, the river also became enticing for a cool dip. (It should be mentioned that at that time there was no sewage disposal plant and all raw sewage went to the river). During the winter the river often froze over and ice skaters turned out in good numbers. A hot bonfire on the bank provided comfort for freezing toes after skating for long periods of time. Hockey was played with a real puck if available, but many times some bent sticks and a flat tin can were used, with the goals being marked by a couple of rocks. Older people will remember skating over "rubber ice" until someone would fall through and have to go home or over to the fire to dry out. The best sledding was on the south bank of the river about 200 yards west of the footbridge at the end of Cherry Street.

Radio was listened to as television is watched today. The listener would picture in his mind what was happening and sound effects helped. Many women listened to "soap operas" during the day while they did their housework. After school there were adventure shows the young people enjoyed. Then after the evening meal families sat down together around the radio and listened to favorite programs. There was considerable static on the airwaves, particularly during electrical storms. Still, this was the principle form of entertainment during these years.

The movie theater in Woodville was not built until 1938. It was a very popular place and lived up to its name, "The Limelite of Movie Land". Before the Limelite was built, the young people often took the streetcar to Gibsonburg where the "De-Lu Theater" showed movies. Of course, Toledo had a multitude of theaters and sometimes one was fortunate enough to be taken to one of these.

Saturday night was the most exciting night of the week. The stores remained open until 9:00 P.M. and it was the night the farmers came to town to shop and the town people joined them. The town band played on a portable bandstand that would be set up in front of different stores each week throughout the summer. Claude Havens parked his popcorn stand on the corner of Main and South Walnut Streets and charged five cents for a bag of popcorn. Greever's Variety Store had a soda fountain with delicious root beer for a nickel a mug. The Day & Heimerdinger Drug Store also had a soda fountain and Vernor's Ginger Ale was drawn from an attractive container also for a nickel a glass.

These soda fountains had all of the other wonderful concoctions: banana splits, sodas, sundaes, milk shakes, malted milks and floats. It was a little easier to get one's parents to spring for a nickel treat than something costing a quarter. The drug store had a penny candy counter that was probably the greatest attraction in town for kids. Suckers, jaw breakers, gum balls on rubber bands, bubble gum with baseball cards, and licorice sticks were some of the items that sold for a penny.

Attending the Sandusky County Fair in the fall, the Fourth of July Celebration on Main Street in Woodville, and an occasional trip to a beach on Lake Erie were other events that made for happy times. One can determine from these memories of the Depression years that as a kid growing up, it wasn't bad at all. Parents deserve much credit for keeping these years happy for their kids because they were enduring some pretty hard times. Toward the end of the 30s the war in Europe had begun and our industrial factories were beginning to get busy again making war equipment. The Depression was ending but the Second World War was coming. Economically, good times were returning but at a terrible cost.

MEMORIES – Spring Cleaning
The curtains were all taken down and the funiture moved out, and the rugs were picked up and taken outside and draped over the clothesline where they were whacked over and over with a wire rug beater.

MEMORIES – Christmas Toyland
A childhood delight and the place to go and dream was upstairs at the Kaemming Hardware Store where there were many, many toys including working displays of every boys' dream – electric train sets.

LIFE IN THE COUNTRY IN THE 1930s

It was such a simple life even though the country was struggling through the post-depression years, it was fun down on the farm! We were never hungry as the cows continued to produce, hogs were butchered and meat was cured and sausage made, and the garden continued to grow. Some meals were plain using what was available and we did not buy very many groceries. It was a treat to have store-bought wieners!

We did not have electric lights or power until the early 1940s. Our Christmas tree had real candles that we burned briefly on Christmas Eve. My parents managed a few gifts, there was always a doll and a few goodies. Parents did not exchange gifts, they seemed to delight in being able to give their children a gift. Lamps used kerosene and they were smelly, and we didn't stay up very late at night. We did not have a telephone, but we did have a Delco system radio. We listened to radio as a family, commenting on what we heard and using our imaginations to develop the stories.

My mother's washing machine was run with a Briggs & Stratton engine that putt, putt, putted loudly on Mondays. The water to the barns was pumped using a gas engine that chugged and puttered. Rain on the tin roof made it's own special soothing sound. It was very quiet in the country, and we were tuned in to listening for the sounds of the animals and the sounds of changes in the weather.

Our heat was from stoves in the kitchen and living room, and the bedrooms were without heat. We warmed our pillows and bedding by the stove, and then quickly jumped into bed. My toilet water perfume froze and popped the top off the bottle. It was cold in the bedrooms!

There was no indoor plumbing, so our baths were in a galvanized tub with water heated on the stove. It was the youngest and cleanest who took the first bath, with my Dad who referred to himself as the "dirty-bird" being the last to bathe. There wasn't much privacy or modesty in our way of life. Farm children learn very early about birth and sickness and death because of the animals.

Another memory is soft-set Jello with marshmallows and bananas that could only set up partially sitting on the cellar floor. Some of our relatives lived in town and when they brought Jello to a family reunion, it jiggled. Most of our entertainment revolved around family get-togethers that were great fun. Grandmothers and the aunties were all superb cooks and we kids loved the dinners. The men and kids would sit down first and when we were finished, the ladies sat down and had a great time sampling each other's pies.

My early clothing was mostly homemade even down to the underwear. My grandmother fashioned children's coats and leggings from men's old overcoats. Dolly Parton's famous "coat-of-many-colors" was almost matched by our "old-overcoat new-coats." We also passed our clothes around and wore hand-me-downs. My cousins and I loved the clothes that came from a relative of a relative who was well-off that lived in Sandusky!

As a small child, I was always anxious for school to start and to see other children. Later, when a little older, we played in a gang of kids that came together, but in the early years there was no one to play with that lived close by.

Making hay was fun because I had the job of walking the horses away from the barn to tighten the ropes of the pulley system that moved the hay slings over to the mows where my Dad tripped the slings and forked the hay in place. A social highlight of the summer was threshing time when I got the job of seeing that the men had water and soap to wash-up before enjoying the extraordinary meals that the farm wives put out for the threshers. In cold weather, butchering was done and while it was hard work, it was also a social event enjoyed by all.

We lived upstairs and my grandparents lived downstairs and much can be learned living in a multi-generational household. It was not uncommon during these post depression years to have such an arrangement, and children benefited from the unconditional love and attention of grandparents. It was a blessed childhood full of great memories.

DO YOU REMEMBER. . . .the Doodle-Bug. The farmer's homebuilt contraption made out of old truck and car parts – some of them had a small homebuilt box on the back for small loads and quick trips to the elevator (WWII era when tractors were in short supply).

A TRIP DOWN MAIN STREET

Our tour begins at the **Subway Shop** that has been here since about 1993. The current owner is Carl Zilch who purchased the business in May 2001 from Mike McDonald. The developers who remodeled the gas station into Subway were Joe and Elsebeth Baumgartner from Oak Harbor, and Mike's father, Gerald McDonald was the first owner.

The known history at this site begins with an 1860 map reference to **S.F. & S. Mills**. The sawmill and grain mill was owned by Henry Seabert and partners and it burned out.

The grain mill was rebuilt, known as **The John P. Elderkin Flour Mill** and was managed by the enterprising Dr. Ferguson. Fire destroyed this mill in 1863. Elderkin took in William H. Bruns as a partner and used brick to rebuild the mill in 1865. Bruns soon bought out Elderkin, and the following is an excerpt from a Woodville News Story about the olden days: "until the fire destroyed it in 1920, the **Bruns Flour Mill** was one of Woodville's early flourishing businesses. Full time employees were William Platcher – miller, Frank Hesselbart, Sr. – engineer, and William Davidter – assistant miller. The mill had a capacity of 150 barrels of flour a day. Products were flour, bran, corn meal and middlings. Flour was shipped all over the states via the Pennsylvania Railroad. A sidetrack ran across Main Street to the mill. In the days when housewives baked their own table bread, the old timers tell that Bruns' flour was the best you could buy. Bruns bought wheat from area farmers who came to town with horse drawn wagons filled with wheat. They purchased flour to take home so the little woman could make that mouth watering homemade bread and muffins."

The PRR rail spur also served a nearby slaughterhouse where freshly butchered hogs were loaded for shipment to Tiedtke's.

A claim to fame: Twins William and Henry Bruns were born in 1834. Henry died in 1929 and William in 1930. At 95 years of age, they were the world's second oldest living twins. It was stated that their journey to America was a 52-day Atlantic crossing.

Soon after the 1920 mill fire, **Standard Oil Company** took over the site. Bulk products came in by rail on the spur that had served the mill, and the horses that pulled the bulk delivery tankers were stabled here. The main product sold was coal oil, later known as kerosene, along with axle grease and lube oils. More autos and trucks were being purchased increasing the demand for gasoline, and a small service station with gas pumps was built where Securance Service stands. Standard Oil's predominant color was green and to spur sales the company decided to use red, white and blue believing that patriotic colors would increase sales. Today, BP Products uses the color green once again.

Guy Sternaman started with Standard Oil in 1922 at the bulk station. He was transferred to Wayne, OH for a few years, and then he returned to Woodville in 1929. The gas pumps were moved to this side of the street (south side of Main) in front of the bulk station.

Delivery trucks with solid tires were purchased and the horses were retired. William Kruse was probably the first agent and some of the early employees were Dick Hartman, Earl Sheffer, Roy Heineman, Bill Miller and Erna Tucker. Bill Kruse and Erna Tucker continued to operate the bulk station. A fire in about 1939 destroyed the bulk station. It was rebuilt and products were distributed from this site until the early 1970s when it was closed and dismantled. The distributors then picked up product in Millbury. Independent distributors were Al Avers, Harold Bockbrader, Dale Aspacher, Larry Haubert and Jim Lenke.

Son, Ed Sternaman and his brother-in-law Chet Bulen took over the operation when Guy retired in 1960, Chet left in 1965, and Ed continued in charge until 1976. Sohio and the Sternaman family had a working relationship lasting over 50 years.

Other managers were: Lee Hutchinson and Zach Dunn. The station closed in a few years and sat vacant prior to being remodeled into the Subway Shop.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The next stop on the visit to Main Street is the Bruns-Molkenbur Building. **John Cousino Flowers & Gifts** is in the west side of the building and **Cousino's Antiques** in the east side. John was first in business across the street in the house next to the Citgo Station. He started there about 1981 and moved to this building in 1992. John Cousino and Dennis Deitemyer started to place a few antiques in the building and that evolved into Harold and Alma Cousino's antique business that we see today.

Early in Woodville's history there were other buildings at this location. About 1833 **Dr. Manville** built a small frame office housing his medical office and drug store. In the same building was the dry goods store of **John Powers** per an 1839 reference. A later reference is to **Charles A. Powers Dry Goods** in business from 1839-1862. **The Post Office** was also here in about 1840 and Powers was the postmaster. Later **Powers & Jaeger Hardware Store** was here, followed by **Smith & Jaeger Hardware** and eventually in the late 1870s to early 1880s it was **"Captain" Andrew Nuhfer's Hardware**. In a corner of the hardware store was the **Post Office** with George Wehring as postmaster. He also had a small business called **George Wehring Dry Goods & Notions.** It was said that Wehring had one of the first frame houses in town and it burned down. Many, many early buildings were lost to fire.

The large two story double storefront building that we see today was built in 1875, ten years after the mill was rebuilt. When the new store opened, **William H. Bruns Retail** occupied the entire building. It was a General Merchandise Store and newspaper ads state "The Big Store" next to the mill. The business was damaged by the 1920 mill fire and may have never re-opened. (Florence Molkenbur, grand-daughter of William H. Bruns, acquired the building in more recent years and had the sign placed to honor her maternal grandfather, along with her surname).

There were many activities upstairs in this building in the early 1900s through the 1940s. Dances were held in the hall around 1920 and later there were boxing matches featuring a local boxer, "Monkey" Mock. During the mid 1940s there was a duck-pin bowling alley. No automatic pinsetters, just kids who the good bowlers tried to knock out of the box! There was once a pool hall upstairs, and later the area was remodeled into apartments.

The east side of the building housed **Angelo Migliori's Nationwide Grocery Store**. Angelo came to the USA in 1921 from Castro, Del Volice, Italy. He started his grocery business in 1924 called **Migliori & Mattoni** and was across the street in the building that sat on the corner of 105 and Main Street. Sometime in the 1930s Angelo moved to this building. In the mid 1940s he sold shoes, blankets, dresses and sweaters. He offered credit to the migrants and when some settled in, they did not forget! Also, Angelo was one of the first stores to be somewhat "self-serve" and to offer limited Sunday hours. He retired in 1958.

Ernsthausen Grocery followed and was open for about one year. Dorothy Lewis had a dress shop here in the early 1960s called **Dottie's Dress Shop**. **Norm's Radio & TV Repair** followed and was here until about 1968. His first year of business was in his mother's garage at 400 High Street.

Now let's explore memories of the west side of the building. After Bruns closed, we know that **Joe Caraffe's A-1 Shoe Repair** was here from about 1930 into the 1940s. Caraffe played the cornet in the Exchange Club Band and later in the Fire Department Band. **Carl R. "Birdie" Emch** had his barbershop in this building in the 1930s and early 1940s. Later, Waldon Schepman sold Isaly's ice cream at **Shep's Restaurant** in the mid 1940s. William **Ruckman's Restaurant** was here in the 1950s. Remember Grandma Parsels who believed in the "banana split diet".....one look at Grandma and you knew that didn't work!

The Victory Bar was here for several years owned and managed by Clint "Hap" Rolf. Even earlier the bar was owned by Russ and Peg (Hildred) Clark and for many years Pat Driscoll tended bar.

The Little Italian Village opened in August 1968 and used the entire building. Frank and Judy Migliori spent many hours remodeling and renovating the building down to the old brick and masonry. Barn siding came from Bill Green and Hilda Burkett's farms and the décor

included memorabilia from the area. It was a great place to go, downstairs with Tom Haubert at the organ, and upstairs the kids hung out after football and basketball games. Anniversary parties and company parties were held in the basement room, a great place for a party with very good food! Frank and Judy were here until November 1980.

For a short time the restaurant was known as **The Heritage**. It then became known as **Wee Willie's** operated by Barry and Sandra Gries. Mark and Faye O'Connor took over and they named their restaurant **The Angry Irishman**. Later, the Mengel family continued with the upstairs portion of the building as a restaurant and bar calling their business **The Flying Dutchman**. The building then sat vacant for five or six years until the flower shop moved here in 1992.

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Let's go to the Picture Show! Today the building houses a furniture business called **Temple of Light Ministry**. Businessman David Bessman has been in business here since 1986.

In yesteryear **The Buckeye Supply Company** was at this location, and when they quit business the building was used as storage for W. H. Bruns Mill. An **A&P Grocery Store** was once at this location managed by Clarence Piddock with Leonard Obermyer as a partner. There were two business entries to this building and in the smaller west side was **Franz Chiarelli's Butcher Shop.** This building was lost to fire, the grocery business moved to West Main Street next to the Day & Heimerdnger Drug Store, and the site sat in a state of ruin for many years.

Paul Pontius built the theatre called **The Limelite of Movieland** that opened November 15, 1939. On opening night it was standing room only for Gloria Jean starring in film UNDER PUP. The theater had 450 seats and a cry-room and was open seven nights a week with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Pontius decided to locate here after an aerial survey that revealed Woodville being a midpoint location between Pemberville, Luckey, Genoa, Elmore and Gibsonburg. The theater décor featured the names and colors of the areas athletic teams. Mr. Pontius was an enterprising man.

Fern's Beauty Shoppe owned by Fern Anson was in the small eastside front area and was followed in the early 1950s by **The Beaute Mirror** owned by Ruth Niehausmyer Pierce. Nationwide Insurance agents Loren Beck and Jim Rogers also had offices in the eastside space. Wayne Bruns started **The SpotLite Soda Grill** in the westside front area when the theatre opened, and in later years under new management it was known as **The Jersey Queen**. Later in the mid 1960s the **Woodville News Office** was at this location with Verna Haas as Managing Editor.

George Wakely purchased the theater in the early 1950s. Our horizons were broadening and going to Toledo and Fremont to the movies became more popular, and we were entertained in our own homes with TV programs. An advertisement in 1953 tells that "Mexican Pictures" will be shown on Tuesday and Wednesday with regular films the balance of the week. Al Tolento and later Marciano Guerrero, Jr. took over the theater. Migrant workers flocked to Sandusky County, and at one time the county had the largest number of migrant workers in the State of Ohio. More Spanish language films were added and on Sundays the workers' cars and trucks lined the streets....eventually only Spanish films were shown. The last film was shown in the early 1980s. Marciano then operated a store that catered to the Hispanic people offering traditional foods and items imported from Mexico.

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The next building is the Kuhlman Building constructed in 1897. **New Image Hair Salon** owned and operated by Kathy Saam is in the eastside of the building and has been here since 1984. The shop has a full line of beauty products and tanning services. **The Country Cupboard** craft shop is on the west side and is owned by Diane Fork and has been at this location since September 1998.

Before this structure was built, **Hubert Graves Shoemaking and Harness Shop** may have been at this general location. **Kuhlman Hardware** purchased the **Henry Blausey/J. H. Blausey Hardware** operation (late 1890s) which was in an older building at this site. Kuhlman Hardware asked council for permission to move the old building out to the street and parallel to the sidewalk while the new building was being constructed (about 1900). Perhaps it was "business as usual" during the construction. Kuhlman Hardware, William Rolf as proprietor, was the first business in the new building.

An advertisement states that **Dr. H. J. Maxwell, Dentist**, was upstairs in 1906. Also upstairs in 1919 were the offices of **Arnold & Weigel Lime Plant Engineers**. Arnold retired in 1929 and Weigel continued the business moving out to the Perry Orchard on Route 20 where the engineering building still stands. There was an experimental kiln in the Route 20 building, and the Weigels moved into one of the small homes at the back of the orchard (east on Route 20 and to the west of the Township garage site). In 1949 Weigel sold out to Toledo Engineering; however, he continued as an engineering consultant for several more years.

The history of the east side of the building begins with a remembrance of **John Hartman's Variety Store & Restaurant** being here in the early to mid 1920s, and there was once a bowling alley in the basement. Hartman's first restaurant was on Water Street near the railroad and streetcar tracks. From the early 1930s and through the 1940s **Greever's Variety Store** was the place to go for notions and all those little necessities of life. Ice cream cones were 5 cents and tin-roof sundaes cost 10 cents. **W. M. Owens Jewelry Store** was at this location for many, many years. Worthy and Lucille came to Woodville in 1933 and opened their first jewelry store in the building that later housed Woodville Cleaners. Worthy did some renovations to this location adding the new store front and later remodeled the upstairs apartments. Worthy sold the business in 1978, and **Bowman's Jewelry Store** was here selling fine diamonds and jewelry until Todd closed the store in 1985. The large safe from the jewelry store era is still in the building. **The Potpourri Store** owned by Amy Watkins had been at the location of Little Shop on the Portage at Main and Elm and then moved to this location. This brings us to the present time on the story of the occupants of the eastside of the building.

Moving to the west side of the building, the oldest known information is the remembrance of the **Frank Rohtert Grocery & Dry Goods** with Eva Byington as one of the clerks. This was in the 1920s. Rohtert had a black huckster truck on the road to peddle his wares. Myron Rohtert then opened **Rohtert's Café/Pool Hall** in the 1930s. "Jumbo" lived in an apartment above the store. Apartments were and still are in the upstairs areas of most of the two story buildings on Main Street. In 1945 **Rohtert's Clothing Store** was Woodville's newest business per the Woodville News coverage. They sold very fine and stylish clothing; however, closed after only a few years.

The Victory Bar owned by Mr. Howard Beech may have been at this location in the very late 1940s and early 1950s. Mr. Beech was a softball fan and treated the Woodville Merchants ball team to an outing at his cottage on Hamilton Lake in Indiana. A few years later, the bar moved a few doors east into the Bruns-Molkenbur building.

Do you remember **Dick's Variety Store** where there was just about everything: household items, materials and sewing supplies, small hardware items, kid's clothing and toys, lamp shades and very good bulk candy that was by the front door? Dick Seiler came to Woodville in about 1953 after experience in retail with Kresges, Montgomery Ward, Allied Stores and WW II Army PXs. John Kruse bought the business in 1974 and continued with **John's Variety Store** at this location until early 1977. He then moved down the street to 109 West Main Street (the former Ken's Furniture Store location).

Waldon "Bud" Damschroder moved his business to this location in April 1977. Bud started **Woodville TV & Electronics** in 1968 at 1116 West College Avenue in the small building that had been the office of Highway Transportation. Bud made some interior changes to this building to adapt to his business and was here for a little over a year. He sold the business to Duane Owen in October 1978. Bud continued his sound trailer business until 1997 when he sold the equipment to Jason Bartow. Duane Owen changed the name of the business to **Woodville TV & Appliance** adding "white" goods to the store. He was the first in town with video rentals. Duane was also our rural route mail carrier for many years. He closed the store in 1993.

Reflections of the Past used this side of the building as a warehouse prior to the present occupant.

Several businesses and offices were located in the upstairs of this building. **Lemoyne Telephone** operators and business office was upstairs, as well as the offices of **Attorney Glen Haas**. Later the entire upstairs was remodeled into three apartments.

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The next building is the home of **Wittkamp Insurance.** Bob Wittkamp started his insurance business in Stony Ridge, then moved to Perrysburg and came to Woodville in November 1991. Bob's daughter Lori Wittkamp Chambers joined the business in 1988, and today Bob spends winters in Florida and joins his daughter in the business during the rest of the year. In the early 1990s, Wittkamps and **Blake Realty** were both at this location.

Attorney John Hunter, Jr. and his associate, Ericka Parker, have offices in the west half of the building, as well as in Toledo. John Hunter, Jr. joined the practice in 1986. Father, **John Hunter, Sr.** started his Woodville practice in 1971, and also served as Sandusky County Court Judge from 1974 until his death in 2001.

The east side of the building has seen many changes over the years. **Coke Davis**, a black man, moved his barbershop to this side of the street in about 1910. (He was first across the street in an older building at the location of the old post office building - both of those buildings long-gone). Some old timers remember when Rohtert's Bar next door had a doorway into this location for the pool hall portion of their business. Liquor could be consumed on the bar side, but was off-limits in the pool area because underage kids were pool hall customers!

Later **D. R. Bruns Radio Shop** was here in the late 1920s to 1952. Dale Grove's first job while in high school was learning radio repair and keeping the store open while Mr. Bruns worked at Willys Jeep as part of the war effort. Bruns moved his store to 510 Water Street in 1952. The state liquor store was here for a few years operated by **Bud Wolfe.** Then the space became a restaurant. Tom and Janella Reineck remodeled the space and opened **Reineck's Sandwisch Shop** in the early 1960s. They sold to Lloyd and Jeanne Gamertsfelder who had wonderful pies baked by Grandma Hoffman and **Jeanne's Restaurant** was here for a few years. **Jacop's Restaurant** followed in 1964 and continued until into the 1970s later known as **Gussie's Restaurant**. For a short time, **Ralph Clink** operated the restaurant.

The even smaller west side of the building has been home to many, many businesses over the years. In the 1930s Earl Sheffer had a business here known as **E. W. Sheffer Electrical Wiring and Appliances**, and later he named the business **Sheron Electric**.

There were many barbershops and beauty shops here over the years. **Lawrence Heseman** was at this site and he trained **Everett Haas**. Later **Carl "Birdie" Emch** was here in late 1930s and through the 1940s when **Bill Mercer** came to town and worked with Birdie. **Bill Bowers** had a shop here and at the same time another shop at 125 East Main Street, both shops were consolidated into one shop where The Village Barber Shop is today**. Paul Hammer** started at this location working with Bill Bowers in 1956.

The barbershops gave way to the beauty shops – an advertisement from 1958 is for **Woodville Beauty Salon** with Judy Haas, later Mrs. Robert Linke and Angie Ruiz A new owner and a new name came in September 1966 when Marty Ritchey opened the **Peter Pan Beauty Shop**. Marty was here through 1977 and then moved into a larger area at 111 E. Main. Marty Ritchey Csizmar is still in the beauty business working at The New Image Hair Salon and making the ladies look good!

At the end of the beauty salon era, the usage became office space. **Spencer Insurance** moved here from the Hick's Building on West Main Street. Herb sold his business to **Blair Realty and Insurance** who had offices here, as well as their main office in Elmore. **Hille Insurance** was also at this location for a short time, as well as **DiSalle Realty** offices.

The office of **THE WOODVILLE NEWS** was also in this building at one time, and no one is sure just exactly when, nor do we remember which side. **B&W Electric** once had a Woodville Store as well as their main store in Gibsonburg. They may have been here, and there were probably several more occupants prior to today's offices.

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JoJo's Nite Club is the next place to visit. The bar is owned and managed by Robert J. Rentz and has been in business since 1975. Tom Russell and Joe Rentz named their business ToJo's. Later, when the business was solely owned by Rentz he changed the name to JoJo's using his name and his wife Joanne's name. The business has now passed to their son Robert.

This site has been the location of a bar going back to at least 1860 when "**J. Keil Saloon**" appears on a map. Another early reference states that groceries and provisions were also available - an early version of one-stop shopping. An 1872 writing: "Jonas Keil has purchased an organ for his saloon. The music and liquid lightning tend to draw large crowds and revive the drooping spirits of the Democracy muchly". Jonas died in 1888, and his son, Charlie Keil took over the bar business. He was followed by his son, Carl known as "Mollie" who was here until 1942. The Keil family operated the saloon for well over 80 years!

Memories have been shared telling of a card room that was reached through a doorway through the wall into the back of the building to the east. Another shared memory is that of an opening leading to the west from the saloon for card playing and extra space. Many, many changes have occurred to the interiors and to sometimes shared space within the commercial buildings!

It was the end of one family business, but the beginning of another long time Woodville business. Ken Dunn came to Woodville and worked for Mollie Keil for about a year, and then Ken and his brother Harold purchased the business in 1939. Ken and his wife Bess moved to Woodville in 1941, and Ken became the sole owner of **Dunn's Billiards/Café/Nite Club**. Ken and Bess were raised in large families. Ken had 9 siblings and Bess had 13 brothers and sisters. The Dunn's raised a family of 9 all of whom were born at home. Dunn's was known for their delicious luncheon specials and the hot dogs with sauce. Ken and Bess retired in 1971, and their son Jim took over the bar until he sold in 1975.

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The next building has two entrances. **The Video Box** under new management just opened April 1, 2003 in the east side space. (They had been across the street in the front east side of the antique store). The west side of this building is currently without a tenant.

Blackbird Embroidery and **The Quilt Nest** occupied the building from April 2001 through mid-summer in 2002. The business is continuing; however, is now located in the Kohn's home at 400 Woodpointe.

Going back in time there was once a hall upstairs that was the location of the first Legion Meeting and used as a clubroom for various organizations. Later the space was remodeled into two apartments.

Lawrence Heseman's Barber Shop was once in the east side of the building. John Florio opened **John's Barber Shop** at this location in January 1964. John also sold real estate for Mohan Realty, and was in his third term of office as Mayor of Woodville when he died from a heart attack on July 4, 1976.

Marty Ritchey Csizmar moved **The Peter Pan Beauty Shop** to this location in 1977 continuing here until 1996. **Country Cupboard** was here from 1996 through 1998, and then relocated a few doors to the east. **Kid's Place** that sold used children's clothing followed.

One of the early occupants of the west side of the building was **W. M. Owens Jewelry Store** opening here in 1933. Worthy later moved into the Kuhlman Building next to the theatre.

August Alesi came to the USA from Ascolipiceno, Italy. He came to this country when he was a teenager, first worked in Toledo and became somewhat established, and returned to Italy to marry Adalgisa. In the mid 1940s they moved to Woodville and started in business across the street in a building located where the yellow brick part of the Ohio Hydrate building now sits. They lived in a small apartment behind their first store. In a few years, they relocated to this building and opened **Alesi's Men's Shop** and **Woodville Cleaners & Dyers**. The dry cleaning business continued until about 2000. Mr. & Mrs. August Alesi and their son, Dario, were part of the Woodville business community for over fifty years.

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The next stop is the **Woodville Historical Museum** that opened with a dedication ceremony on June 1, 1970.

A very early business located behind the store buildings and somewhere here in the alley area was the Keil Brothers Brewery. A picture with caption shows the final demolishment of the brewery, and places the time as the 1920s and the location as back of the museum. We don't know what they called their local brew!

This building was built by J. H. Spieker Company at a cost of $2,082 and was home to the first bank in town, the **Woodville Savings Bank Company** that was incorporated August 5, 1901. An addition was added to the rear of the building in 1909. This bank and State Savings Bank merged in 1942, and all banking moved into the building at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets (now the Library).

After extensive renovations done in 1947 the Woodville Public Library moved to this location remaining here for over twenty-three years until the Museum was formed and the Library moved to the present location.

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The next building is the **Woodville Public Library** and this building has been here since 1909. The Library moved to this location in 1970 with a joint dedication ceremony for both library and museum.

An 1860 map shows that Dr. Frederick Jaeger had his doctor's office at the rear of this lot, and the Keil Homestead once stood on this corner. A news article from July 1909 states: "the new bank building is nearing completion and when completed this banking house will present a modern institution in every detail. A formal opening and public inspection of the banking house is to be arranged." **The State Savings Bank** occupied the west half of the building.

In the east half of the building was the **Carl Ferris Confectionary** and **Legget's Jewelry.** Later **Perry Wendler's Confectionary & Ice Cream Store** was here, and Wendler also advertised as **The Quality Store** offering "Masterphones" for sale. The "sweets" business passed to Milton Schnoor who had **The Confectionary Store** and his insurance office at this site. In the early 1930s the store became **Dale & Lyle Berry's Confectionary Store** and they had a fire sometime in the early 1930s. A long time occupant was the **Burt Moll Meat Market & Liquor Store** from sometime in the mid 1930s into the late 1940s.

In 1950 the bank now known as **Woodville State Bank** took over the entire building using this part of the building for the "bookkeeping department". There was a disastrous fire on Memorial Day in 1957 and the bank temporarily relocated across the street in the old block post office building which stood where the east side of the pharmacy is now located. Operations returned to this building after the fire damages were repaired and continued here until 1968 when the bank moved into their new building at Main & Perry Streets (the present Huntington Bank).

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Sitting directly behind the library on South Walnut Street is an historic building with a long history.

At one time the building housed **Fred Mauntler's Wagon Business**. The building remained in the family and was used as a storage barn for the Mauntler Store. **J. H. Blausey Company** purchased the building in 1941

and remodeled making an apartment upstairs and two offices on the main floor. J. H. Blausey started in 1913 doing sidewalks and construction. His sons, Walter and Earl, worked with him, and in the 1930s they started to do state and county roadwork. J. H. retired and the brothers continued working together until 1951. The **Earl W. Blausey Co.** worked at stone quarries around Ohio and Southern Michigan removing overburden to expose the rock, their primary work was earth removal/stripping. This building was used as their office until the family closed operations in 1993.

Dr. Glenn Walker had offices in the building following World War II. A succession of optometrists have had their offices in this building - Dr. Warren and Dr. Ruth P. Morris, Dr. Thomas J. Overburg , Dr. Deno Cosco, and presently Dr. Dennis Laub.

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The next structure is The Keil Block, solid brick throughout, and it was constructed in just five weeks time in 1894. **Reflections of the Past** furniture store owned and managed by Charles Long is located at 105 West Main Street. The business uses the east lower section of the building for warehousing, the store's entrance is the middle door of the building and the business spreads across the east and middle upper sections of the building. Chuck Long started here in about 1985-86 taking over from Bob and Linda Meyers.

The west side of the building was recently purchased by **R. Nigel Davies** who is renovating the apartment above and remodeling the downstairs area into rental office space.

Prior to the structure we see today, **The American House Hotel** managed by Lewis Darling and later sold to Mr. Adler was at this location close to the corner.

William Keil came to Woodville in 1857 and started a tin shop, served in the Civil War, returned home from the war and continued his business then located at the corner of the Lutheran Church's property where the Keil's home was also located. He later bought the Elderkin Tavern and the family lived at the tavern. The Keil's had four children: Edward, Augustus, George and Hattie. Father William purchased the firm of Lake and Cable in Pemberville, thus starting **William Keil & Sons Hardware** business. Here in Woodville business was very good and the tin shop evolved into a hardware store and they also carried lumber. An 1872 Newspaper article: "Mr. Keil has remodeled his tin shop and now has a commodious store room and work shop; he is doing a thriving business." (This may be referring to his location on West Main in the church block or he may have used the former American House Hotel). The thriving business required more space and The Keil Block was built. Sons Augustus and Edward were in charge of the Pemberville store, and William himself was in charge of the Woodville store. In 1899 Augustus died in an explosion of the gasoline lighting system in the Pemberville store. William died in 1922 at age 83 leaving his son, George "Cap", managing the Woodville store. "Cap" Keil had an early electric car, played the violin in Sunday School at United Brethren Church, and he never married. The Pemberville store closed in 1924 and Edward and George were both at the Woodville store. George "Cap" died in January 1947 and the store was for sale.

Several businesses have been upstairs in the Keil Building. An **Opera House** was here very early. In the 1920s **Mrs. C. F. Keil's Needlecraft & Gifts** was here. **The New Ottawa Company Telephone** and the first offices of **Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company** were here. The Hydrate organized in 1916 and held a few meetings in the Price Creamery before establishing their office upstairs in this building. A 1930 advertisement places C. F. & Frances Keil's photography business - **Keiland Studio** upstairs in this building. At one time **Patsy DeAngelis** had a barbershop here, and several attorneys had offices here including **E. R. Voorhees, Carl Zehner, Luella Zehner** and **Glen Haas**.

Continuing on with the changes in ownership to the east side of the building that in the past housed the hardware stores. **P. R. Oster Hardware & Sporting Goods** followed Keil Hardware being in business from June 1947 to mid 1948. Ed Wapshall purchased the business and named it **Woodville Hardware** and operated here until about 1960. The next owner was Robert Schultz and the name changed to **Woodville Pro Hardware**. Bob Schultz was in business from 1960 to 1990, and he also served many years as Woodville Township Clerk. Jim Beam was the next owner operating **as Beam's True Value.** In 1993 Phil Trumbull joined as co-owner and the business was known as **True Value of Woodville**. Beam left the business venture and Phil Trumbull continued here until 1998 when he moved to the present location at 850 Water Street.

The history of the middle section of the building begins in 1894 with the **George Crononwett Variety Store**.

The Mauntler Brothers Store moved here in 1906 from the nearby Otten Building. Brothers George, Fred, and John Mauntler bought out B. S. Otten's Store in 1900, and were first in business in an older building that stood at the location of today's Country Hair Creations. **Mauntler's Red & White Grocery Store** had a huckster wagon on the road delivering in about a five-mile radius to town, first with a one-horse wagon and later with a two-horse grocery wagon. When the oil boom came, the three brothers became interested in oil development and the store was turned over to John's son, Edward. In 1914 a Ford truck was purchased to better serve the country population. In 1917 following the death of brother John, the business was purchased by George's sons, Arthur and John L. Meyer. Arthur became the sole owner and continued the operation of the store for over 40 years. They carried a complete line of dry goods and clothing, household items, as well as groceries. The next generation was now involved in the store and groceries were discontinued in 1948. Son, Charles, took over the sales and installation of floor coverings, and Arthur, Jr. managed the dry goods and wearing apparel. Arthur, Sr. retired in 1957 selling to his two sons who were in partnership until 1959. Arthur, Jr. moved to Michigan where he operated a hardware store. Mauntler's Store carried a very complete clothing line and accessories and it was a great place to shop! After Charle's death in 1982, his wife Kathryn continued to run the store for a few more years, selling to Don Pfaff of Oak Harbor who continued the business for another year or two. Mauntler's Store was part of the Woodville business scene for over 80 years.

Linda and Bob Meyer opened **The Reflections of the Past** craft, gift and consignment store in the early 1980s and continued until selling to Chuck Long in about 1986.

Moving to the west door of the building, the first business was a funeral home and furniture store operating as **Veh & Nieman** per an 1894 Newspaper advertisement. M. G. Veh had also been in business at the site of the Elderkin Hotel near the present Citgo Station and opened a second venture in Gibsonburg in about 1892. The business was soon the **F. L. Nieman Funeral Home**, followed by another change in family management to **Nieman's Funeral Home & Furniture** managed by Henry and Charles Nieman. The Niemans owned all or portions of funeral parlors in Pemberville, Luckey, Gibsonburg and Woodville. Charles died in 1908, and Henry became the sole owner of all the locations. Detloff Mollgaard was hired as proprietor for the Woodville funeral home. The mortuary advertised ambulance service in the 1920s that may have been when they purchased their first motorized funeral vehicle. Prior to that time the hearse was drawn by horses. In 1932 Mollgaard went into business for himself at the location of the present funeral home, and the Nieman mortuary closed in Woodville. Henry Nieman went into semi-retirement in the late 1930s and his son Luther took over the Pemberville mortuary. In 1941 Luther Nieman was killed in an accident during the installation of a hand elevator at their Pemberville mortuary. Henry stayed in semi-retirement for license purposes at the Pemberville funeral home – now operating as Nieman-Beckman Funeral Home.

Ken Sitzenstock who was married to Henry Nieman's daughter, Mary, took over the management of the furniture portion of the business operating as **Ken's Furniture Store** using both floors of the building. At one time from 1937-40 the Library was located on tables in the front window area of the furniture store. Ken was called to serve in World War II and completely closed the doors to his business, reopening when the war was over. The furniture store closed in about 1977 having provided Woodville with very fine selections for over 85 years. Ken was a collector of beautiful and unusual antique art glass and china pieces, and there were showcases and shelves displaying his collections in the rear of the store.

After three years in the Kuhlman Building, John Kruse moved **John's Variety Store** to this location in August 1978 remaining here until he closed in June 1984. He remodeled the upstairs area into an apartment.

Linke Photography was the last occupant of the west side of the building. David was at this location from June 1984 through mid-summer 2002 when he moved his photography business to his new home on Lime Road near the Toussaint Creek.

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The two-story brick building is home to **Country Hair Creations** owned and managed by Terri Stone and Pat Cook. They opened in December 1995 and offer complete beauty services, day spa and tanning beds. There are three apartments above the business.

In an older building once at this location was retired sea-captain **Benedict Emch's Grocery Store**. Emch had purchased Powers business inventory and this was in the mid 1870s. Later in the 1880s the business operated as **J. F. Basey & Benjamin Otten Groceries**. Then the business became known as **Otten's Store** owned by Bern S. and Gerhard F. Otten continuing through to about 1900. The next venture was **Mauntler's Store** owned by the three Mauntler Brothers who were at this location until about 1906. **Dooepker & Kaemming Hardware** started here in 1906 and moved across the street when this building was razed.

Dr. J. F. Lang came to Woodville in 1909 and his first office was upstairs above the hardware store. He practiced at this location for three or four years before moving to a building next to the Town Hall.

The brick building we see today was built by Herman and Anna Goecker in about 1913 and they started a bakery business called **H. F. Goecker Bakery and Restaurant** selling ice cream and oysters, fruits, candies, cigars and tobacco with short order meals a specialty as noted on their stationery which included a photo of their new building. A coal-fired solid-brick bake oven was in the new building capable of producing 2000 loaves of bread a day! Deliveries were made with a horse and wagon and son, Carl, was also part of the bakery business.

In 1923 the business was sold to August and Flossie Linkey of Gibsonburg. **Linkey Bakery** had a truck route serving the small towns in the area. Times were tough and money was tight as the country worked through the depression years and the recovery years. "Jersey Cream" bread was 10 cents a loaf, doughnuts and lunch rolls and cookies were 15 cents per dozen, fancy iced rolls were 18 cents per dozen, and the most expensive jelly balls were 25 cents a dozen. The bakery also sold ice cream at 5 cents for a double dip, 10 cents for a sundae, packaged by the pint for only 15 cents, and a quart cost 29 cents. An incentive to increase business was the addition of a popcorn machine. Later a nickelodeon playing one tune for 5 cents and 6 selections for a quarter was installed. Teenagers of yesteryear also loved music opting to spend their nickels for the jukebox rather than ice cream!

Gus Linkey was civic minded and served as Mayor of Woodville from 1927 through 1933. He was also the director of the Town Band that entertained on Saturday nights, played at parades and all the firemen's conventions. For the Fourth of July Celebrations the bakery produced 1500 round buns and 1500 hot dog buns and charged only one cent each! The Linkey's lived above the bakery, raised a family of 2 girls and 4 boys and any mischief that took place in town, the boys and their buddies were probably involved. Due to failing health, the Linkeys sold the business and moved "out west" to Arizona in 1946.

Zip's Bakery & Coffee Shop was owned by Sylvester and Louise Kohring who continued the bakery business until their retirement in January 1956. They also moved "out west" to Sequim, Washington. Atwell and Lois Gilmore took over the business in November 1956 and called the business **Zip's Cafeteria** with the emphasis on good food. Mr. Gilmore had extensive background in food service and restaurant management. The pies and rolls were made by two local ladies right at the restaurant and baked fresh daily. The imposing large sign still in use was put up by Mr. Gilmore. The family also lived in the apartment above the restaurant until they built a new home on Riverside Drive. They sold the business in late 1975. New owner Jack Sider took over on November 16, 1975 without one lost day of business. The name was changed to **Sider's Family Restaurant** and continued until sometime in 1981.

The building was remodeled and **Woodville Clinic** opened in September 1984. The clinic was a subsidiary of Oregon Clinic and closed in 1988.

The building was vacant for a few years until Richard Emch remodeled and changed it into a beauty shop known as **The Cutting Edge** that opened in October 1992. There were changes and additions throughout the life of the building and footprints of previous buildings have been observed. There was horse paraphernalia in the back area that had not been cleared away until more recent times. The bake oven was converted to gas somewhere along the way, and finally removed by Bruce Stone and John Cook, the current owners of the building. They kept the plate and thermometer and used them decoratively in their newly remodeled building.

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The next building is now a house of worship used by **The Woodville Baptist Church**. The church group has been meeting here since March 1991.

The 1850 census lists **Jabez Burman, Blacksmith** and later we found a reference to **Jake Burnham Blacksmith Shop** that was at this location in the 1850s. **Peter Kroetz Blacksmith Shop** followed.

A building was put on the lot that was used by a succession of Meat Markets: **C. Moll, J. M. Gallup, J. H. Blausey** and **Herman's Meats**. An advertisement in 1911 shows **Central Market** with Lawrence Brough as manager. A later ad in 1920 is for **Brough & Myers** and they also sold boots and shoes. An ad in 1930 is for **L. C. Brough Market**. Son, Jesse Lee who was known as Jeppie, started working for his father when he was 13 years old. Jeppie was in WW II and was in the invasion of Normandy with General Patton's Fourth Armored, a decorated veteran with seven major battle stars and one bronze star. He returned to Woodville when his dad became ill and bought the business in 1948. Later, he also had the liquor agency and his wife Doris took care of the required government records. He retired in 1974. The Brough family was in business at this location for over 60 years.

Larry Snyder purchased the meat market only and called his business **Snyder's Meat Market** and was here until 1982 when he sold to Myra and Frank Lucki who opened **Best House of Lucki**. From 1986 through 1988 Kathy and Norm Hammitt ran the business.

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The next stop is **The Village Barber Shop/Paul Hammer's Barber Shop** staffed by Paul and brother Ray Hammer. Another brother, Phil Hammer, came into the shop when Bill Mercer retired in 1976. Today all three brothers are in the shop and all plan to retire soon, each working a few days a week.

The building is locally known as "The Hansen Building" and housed **Pete Hansen's Shoe Store** that was here in the late 1890s and the family home was next door to the west of the store – this home was torn down long ago.

R. B. Myers Grocery Store was here for many years from the early 1940s until his retirement due to illness in the early 1950s. Ralph and wife, Amelia "Meale" offered credit to all customers and every item purchased was listed on a sales slip and the hand-written slip was filed in the drawer until payday when customers came in to settle their bill. Prices didn't change very often and cans were not marked; however, there might be a small mark on the shelf for the clerk to observe when they gathered the customer's order item by item. Kid's loved the bulk potato chips that were in a large container at the front of the store and always hoped that Ralph would wait on them, because he was very generous!

Sheffer's Grocery Store followed owned by Kenneth "Tone" and Mary Ann Sheffer. The grocery was at this location until early 1955 when more room was needed, so they moved to a larger space in the building at the corner of Main and Perry Streets where Sky Bank stands.

Howard Lang Insurance was in this building for about a year. **Spencer Insurance Agency** followed and was at this location from 1956 through 1961. Herb Spencer then moved to West Main Street across from the Lutheran Church where Little Shop on the Portage is today. Then in late 1956 Bill Bowers' **West Main Street Barber Shop** moved here when Mr. Bowers decided to consolidate his two barbershops. (He had one shop in what is today Hunter's Law Office and another at 125 West Main). Through these years, Mr. Bowers was studying for the ministry and was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1960. He then sold his business to Paul Hammer in 1965.

Evie's Upholstery was behind the barbershop for several years from 1985 until closed in early summer 2001. Evelyn Heineman and her helper, Ann Nuhfer, not only did upholstery, but they caned chairs – caning is becoming a lost art!

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The next building is the Woodville branch of **Sky Bank.** The history of the bank begins in November 1978 with ground breaking for the Woodville branch of **First Federal Savings & Loan of Wood County**. The Grand Opening was in August 1979 with a most unusual ribbon cutting. The ribbon consisted of twenty $10.00 bills of which half were donated to the Historical Society and the other half to the Recreation Board. In an acquisition on July 19, 1999, the institution began business as **Mid Am Bank**. In February 2001 the name changed to **Sky Bank**. Gary Zajac has been with the bank since it opened in 1979.

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Once this end of the block looked entirely different with a residence next to the Hansen Building (the current barber shop). Across the alley from the barbershop at 121 West Main Street stood the Bruellman home, J. J. Bruellman was Superintendent of Woodville Schools in the 1920s. **W. H. Blausey & Company** offices were upstairs and the **Sandusky County Court** was downstairs in the house in the late 1950s and early 1960s. **John Chambers** moved his law office to this building and was also named Sandusky County Court Judge. Later he was elected Sandusky County Probate Judge and worked at the Court House from 1974 to 1989. Dorothy Schutz followed with the **Village Gift Shop** from 1968 into the early 1970s. When First Federal became interested in a Woodville location that included the site of this house, owner Robert Schutz had the house turned around and moved to a lot on College Avenue (second house from the corner of College and Perry Streets).

There were two older buildings that sat to the west of the Bruellman House in the area now occupied by the bank. The first building was two-stories, apartments upstairs and with two business entrances. The oldest known information about the east entry (probably 125 West Main Street) is that this was the place of business of **William "Bill" Seeger, Barber.** Advertisements in the mid 1890s through early 1900s are very quaint. He advertised as "Tonsorial Artist" doing hairbraids/chains. He was also a music instructor and was often mentioned for his music in news articles. In the late 1930s and into the early 1940s the barbershop was **Colon's Barber Shop**. Mrs. Colon had a small beauty shop behind the barbershop and then they advertised as **Colon's Barber & Beauty Shop**. **Birdie Emch, Barber** may also have been at this location at one time.

Then the restaurant era began in the mid 1940s with **Schutz Family Restaurant. Johnson's Restaurant** was here in about 1947-48. Liz Bruellman Donovan took over the restaurant and operated as **Donovans Restaurant** and closed sometime in the early 1950s. After the restaurant era ended, the space was rented by Del Meyer who had his grocery store next door to the west.

Ray Hoeffler's Electric, a radio and TV repair shop, was here in the early to mid 1950s. **The Marsh Paint Store** was here in about 1954 to 1955. **Bill Bowers** had one of his barbershops here with Bill Mercer in charge for a few years and he leased space from Tone Sheffer. He closed this shop and moved to the site of present barbershop in late 1956. **Ritz Cleaners & Dyers** had a drop-off/pick-up store at this location. The last business at the time of the 1975 fire was **Pixie Cleaners.**

The history of the businesses occupying the west side of the building begins with an 1885 reference telling that **John L. Fehr** Bakery had moved from across the street to this site. Later, an advertisement in the 1897 newspaper states**: The Bakery** with Fred Fehr, Proprietor at location "first door west of Seeger's."

Irving Taulker's Wallpaper & Paint Store was here in the early 1930s. **Piddock's A&P Store** relocated to this store site after fire damaged their first store which was at the site of the theater. Leonard Obermyer was once a partner with Clarence Piddock prior to going to the Post Office. Later in 1942, son Bernard Piddock took over the business now known as **Piddock's Nationwide Grocery Store**. The next grocer was **Lenz Grocery & Meats** and an advertisement from 1944 states "located next to the drug store."

Frank Sprow came to Woodville with the Kroger Company. He left Kroger and opened **F. L. Sprow's Nationwide Grocery Store** at this site in the mid 1940s. Later he became an independent grocer calling his store **F. L. Sprow's Grocery Store**. Frank and Helen Sprow had seven children, and all graduated from Woodville High School.

Adelbert Meyer purchased Sprow's store and the Red & White Grocery portion of the A. H. Mauntler Store in November 1948. Del and his brother Bill also had a store on New York Avenue in Toledo that was soon sold. **Del's Red & White Grocery Store** was only 17 ft. wide and 50 feet deep, so very small by today's standards! When space to the east was vacant, he rented the area for storage. Charles DeWyre and Mayme Blausey were the first employees, as well as the Meyer children who stocked shelves every Thursday night. In 1953 the grocery store moved across the street to the west half of the building where business now continues as **Del's Super Market, Inc**.

The Drug Store Building: In 1909 Al and Fred Assenheimer purchased the drug store inventory of Dr. Henry Busch and built a new store at the corner of South Main & Perry Streets to house their business. A news article states: "The room to be occupied by the Assenheimers with their full line of drugs and supplies is being furnished off in great style. This will be one of the best business rooms in town. A formal opening and public inspection of the store is to be arranged." Two new buildings opened on Main Street in 1909, this store operating as **The Woodville Drug Company** and the new bank at the corner of Main & Walnut.

There was a change in ownership in 1925 when Jerome Day and Clarence Heimerdinger, pharmacists from Toledo started a Rexall store operating as **Day & Heimerdinger Rexall Drugs**. This was in the days when there was a soda fountain in the drug stores with 10 cent sundaes. Soda water was on tap and a chocolate soda was made with fountain soda water, ice cream and syrup - a real delight to the kids of the 1930s and 1940s. The small metal tables with small uncomfortable seats are from this era, the set-up didn't take up very much space. In January 1948 L. C. "Bud" Conold purchased the drug store operating as **Conold's Drug Store**. Business was good and the economical outlook favorable, so he built a very nice store across the street and rented one-half of the new building to Del Meyer for his grocery store. This move was made in 1953.

Mary Ann & Kenneth "Tone" Sheffer

Tone Sheffer purchased the two story building and the former drug store building and moved **Sheffer's Val-U-Way Foods** to this location in December 1955. The store was extensively remodeled and the grocery used the former drug store space and the west half of the two-story building. During these years most people shopped in town and most small towns had several grocery stores and markets. The store became **Sheffer's IGA** and after 18 years in business, they sold the grocery business, but retained ownership of the building. David Jackson from Tipp City opened September 8, 1969 calling his store **Woodville IGA Market** with very few changes. Mr. Jackson had worked in a family business with his father and had experience in wholesale grocery businesses. The operation of the grocery once again changed to **Dan's Bestmart**. Dan Craig was here when fire destroyed the building on May 17, 1975, too damaged to consider rebuilding.

Prior to the structure built by Assenheimers in 1906, there may have been an older building at this site that housed **The Bert Keil Salon**. This may have been a two-story structure as there are old-time references to **Photographer Frey** being upstairs followed by another photographer **Mr. Patterson**. Also, a **barber named "Joe"** may have had a shop upstairs.

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Crossing Perry Street, the first building is the **Robinson-Henn-Brossia Funeral Home**. Their ownership started on September 18, 1986, and soon after their acquisition they remodeled the interior upstairs and the public areas downstairs. Jim Brossia, David Marsh and Mitch Hoyle are the owners of the Woodville funeral home and Mitch Hoyle acts as the local manager.

The Liza Schroeder residence and boarding house was on this site and was remodeled into what we see today. At one time the **Henry Geyer Blacksmith Shop** was in a barn at the rear of the residence. Fire destroyed the barn and Geyer moved to a new location behind the Town Hall.

A 1930s advertisement in the WOODVILLE NEWS is for **Mollgaard Brothers Appliances**. Father Dethlef was still working for Nieman Mortuary at this time, and it is not known where brothers Alton and Elmer had their appliance business. Perhaps one of the many, many occupants of the Rohtert Building or the Kuhlman Building.

Dethlef Mollgaard purchased the Schroeder residence at a Sheriff's Auction in 1932 and remodeled the building into a two-story structure keeping the roofline and adding to the base of the building. His business operated as **The Mollgaard Funeral Home** assisted by sons Alton and Elmer. Dethlef died in 1941 and the sons continued the business, Alton became the sole owner in 1948. Paul Heineman started here in 1950 and became a licensed director and purchased the business in 1968. Several additions and improvements were made over the years, enlarging the upstairs apartment and the parking lot expansion to the rear of the building. Prior to today's emergency services, the funeral directors owned hearse/ambulance combination vehicles that responded to accidents. As regulations became more stringent, today's EMS services came into being. Paul Heineman continued to operate the funeral home as **The Heineman-Mollgaard Funeral Home** until September 1986.

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The next building houses **Sandusky County Court District #2.** The court has been here since June 2000. Housing the public court required remodeling and an elevator was added to the rear of the building to meet code.

W. H. Blausey & Company renovated the two-story office building in early 1955. On the first floor were the law offices of **Bronson & Chambers Law Firm**, **Nationwide Agent L. H. Fruth**, and the offices of the buildings owner, W. H. Blausey & Company. **New York Life Insurance Agent Heber Howard** was on the second floor and the **Woodville News** office was here at one time.

W. H. Blausey & Company started in 1951 with Glenn Graffice as a partner. Later, in 1959 when Graffice formed his own company, the business became Walter's families business. The emphasis for this company was highway construction including dams, reservoirs, reclamations and site preparations. They later incorporated and were in business until 1996. This family business started in 1913 and three generations were involved in the construction business.

Permaglas, Inc. had offices here with about ten employees using the entire second floor from 1957 to about 1968 when they moved to new offices in Millbury. From 1974 through 1989 the **Sandusky County Court** was upstairs in this building. **John Hunter, Sr.** had law offices in the building for his private practice, as well as serving as Sandusky County Court Judge. Hunter started his Woodville law practice in 1971 in the Hick's Building on West Main Street.

IN THE PAST: Prior to remodeling, the building was known as the Meinert Building and was built in about 1912. There were always two businesses in this building and we'll start on the east side. Shoe stores were always on this side of the building starting with **Charles Krueger & Son Shoe Store** and later **Arthur C. Krueger & Son Shoes.** The Kruegers also advertised that they did harness repairs. Then **Jeremy & Wise** shoe

store was here per a 1925 advertisement. Fred Jeremy and Arthur Krueger became partners per an advertisement from 1930 and they operated as **J & K Shoe Store** and sometimes the ads said **J & K Boot Shop**. Jeremy remained in business until the building was razed in the mid 1950s. He sold Enna Jennick and Polly Parrot shoes and Ball Band boots. Kids loved the Polly Parrot shoes because a "cricket clicker" was given out with the shoes. Jeremy had massive repair equipment in the back of the building – some of the equipment may have been used for harness repair in earlier days. The store window held a sampling of his inventory and business peaked each fall when school started when some children got new shoes!

Meinert's store was in the west half of the building. **Meinert Brothers Store** started in the block where the brick parsonage for the Lutheran Church now sits. William Meinert and daughter, Esther, continued business in their new building operating as **William Meinert's Grocery Store**, later **W. F. Meinert Dry Goods** as the emphasis and inventory changed. **Kroger Grocery & Baking Company** came to Woodville in about 1929 with Frank Sprow as manager. When Sprow left Kroger Company, the new manager was Arthur Lohrbach who was soon called to serve in WW II. His wife Eloise became the manager during his absence. John Hovis managed the Kroger store from 1947 to 1950 leaving to become a Kroger manager at another location, and later started his own business in nearby Elmore. Kroger closed prior to the building renovations.

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Woodville Town Hall is the next building that was dedicated May 30, 1951. The building housed fire equipment on the first floor until the new building }was erected on Findlay Road. Jail cells and police department offices were also on the ground floor. The second floor has a large meeting room and kitchen and an office that was the Village Clerk's Office. When the fire equipment was moved in 1980, building usage changed and major renovations took place and the village offices moved downstairs and the police department's area was also remodeled.

IN THE PAST: The village's first **Town Hall** stood on the west half of this site from 1888 until 1951. The old town hall was only half the size of the building that we have today. The old town hall structure is the sixth in the ornament series sold by the Historical Society. The older and smaller village fire equipment was stored in this building, and there was a hall upstairs that could be used for public meetings. The lot for the Town Hall had been purchased from Matthias Faist.

There were small barns, blacksmith shops and wagon builders to the east of the town hall and on the back lots behind the Meinert Building and Town Hall. Exactly where these structures were doesn't seem to be known, but references place them in this vicinity. **Henry Geyer Blacksmith** moved into this area after fire drove him out of Liza Schroeder's barn. Others who may have been at this location: **Rolf Blacksmith Shop** and **Charles Krueger Harness Shop. William and Henry Rolf** are mentioned numerous times from the 1874 Atlas through to the early 1900s in news ads, and a little later **Frank Rolf** is named. The Rolfs may have been here, as well as at other locations around the town. Blacksmiths **Ward Engler, Fred Unger**, along with **Frank Clink**, were all in this general area at one time. The last blacksmith was **Elmer Nieman** who lived upstairs in a ramshackle two-story building at this location. He moved to Michigan in 1929.

The ramshackle blacksmith shop of Elmer Nieman sat just east of the Town Hall. A narrow alley was between the Meinert Building and the blacksmith shop and there was a second-story covered ramp from one building to the other. Merchandise for Meinert's Store would be delivered in the alley using a stairway in the blacksmith shop, and then moved across the covered ramp into the upstairs of Meinert's Store. (Meinert owned both of the buildings).

Carl A. Hansen Tin, Copper, Sheet Metal, Furnace Work & Repairing was here from 1920 to 1926 or so. From about 1921 through 1926 Herb Busdiecker worked for Carl Hansen learning the sheet metal trade. Herb then worked in Toledo for a short time and then came back to Woodville and worked for C. F. Kaemming Hardware setting up machinery. Herb was in short-lived partnership with Carl Sampson Plumbing in Luckey, and then Herb worked out of his garage. Herb bought Elmer Nieman's blacksmith shop tools and inventory and opened **H. W. Busdiecker Plumbing & Tin Shop** in 1929. Herb shod a few horses, and then used the back of the building as a tin shop, had a small office in the front area, and had gas pumps out by the street. Herb was at this location until 1938 when he bought the Crononwett Building at the corner of Water Street

and Main Street and the Villbrandt Boarding House that was next door on Main Street.

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The next building is the offices of **Dr. Kenneth Myers** who started his dentistry practice in the fall of 1992.

Once this building was a cobbler's shop. The 1874 Atlas lists **Matthias Faist** as a shoemaker. Faist and Wilehelm Weber may have worked together and called the business **The Shoe Shop**. The Faist home once stood at the corner of Main and Cherry Streets where the telephone company building now stands. It was built in 1882, considered to be a Woodville landmark and was surrounded by a white picket fence. The small building (now the dental office) may have been built the same year and became Faist's shoe store and cobbler shop. A later reference in 1894 mentions **Mr. I. F. Pheils Photography** of both Woodville and Elmore being at this location. Others remember the photographer being here as late as the early 1900s. Other remembrances are of the **John Faist & George Burman Saloon** with a bowling alley in this general area.

About 1910 **Dr. J. F. Lang** moved his dental practice to this location and remained here until he sold to **Dr. Vernon Slotterbeck** in 1953. Dr. Slotterbeck sold his dental practice to Dr. Kenneth Myers, worked a few months in the transition and retired in late 1992.

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The next building is owned by **SPRINT** and switching equipment serving the local area is housed here, as well as the office of Marvin Shaw whose responsibility covers 11 area towns. Local service trucks are dispatched from this location. This building was constructed in late 1965 by **Northwestern Telephone Company,** a successor company of United Telephone Company. There have been many realignments in ownership over the years. At one time bills could be paid to a cashier here at this building, that practice was many years ago.

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Moving across to the north side of Main Street and starting at Cherry Street and moving on to Perry Street, nothing is the same as the past. Today there is a residence at the corner of Main & Cherry Streets, and next a large parking area used by the United Methodist Church. Ken Green has remodeled the former gas station into a Community Youth Center with an outdoor volleyball court. Ken plans to be open in Spring 2003.

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THE SAME BLOCK – MEMORIES FROM THE DISTANT PAST: The David Rhiel residence once stood at the corner of Cherry and Main Street, and has been replaced by the residence we see today. The next building would have been the hotel with a residence attached to the west side.

The locations of buildings and lot usages have changed over the years and pictures may help to look back and remember where the buildings sat on the lots. **The Woodville Hotel** and the attached portion on the east

side that was Carrie Raberg's residence stood here until May 1963. The last owner of the hotel was Mrs. Florence Kohlenberg Ehmke who sold to Earl Blausey for the development of the gas station. Florence and her late husband, Ray Kohlenberg purchased the hotel in 1953. A review of the hotel's register shows guests from France, Sweden, Germany and a group of students from Indonesia, and also students from Minnesota passing through on their way to New York City. Several single men lived at the hotel for many, many years.

Early history of the hotel begins not at this site, but at a site near 703 West Main Street (where Bob & Linda Meyer's home sits today) and probably a little closer to SR 105. **The Center House** that was located there was an inn with a tavern and was also a stagecoach stop. A. H. Meyer, former Principal of Solomon Christian Day School, was interviewed by newsman Fred Kneip and his memories follow: "my mother and father, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Meyer, lived in the tavern or inn during the toll gate days, and I was born in the inn. My mother, Julia Rabb Meyer, had a millinery shop at the inn. Woodville Normal housed students at the inn for a short time." The history of the hotel continues when John L. Fehr, staff member at Woodville Normal and a teacher at Solomon Lutheran School, purchased The Center House and moved the building to this site nearer the center of the business area. This probably was sometime in the mid to late 1880s. At one time Mr. Rudman was the operator of the **Center House Hotel,** and it seems the name came along with the building.

Oil had been discovered in the area and the town was bustling with people in the early 1890s. There was a **Chinese laundry** in the block and the oil workers slept in shifts. Imagine Woodville during these years with the oil boom and Normal School in full swing! There is also historical reference to **John F. Fehr's Bakery** being at this location and then later moving across the street where Del's first grocery store sat. Later, Mr. Fehr sold the hotel property to F. Klausing who named James Brady as the new manager and it was known as **Hotel Brady**. This was about 1897. **THE NEWS** published by A. C. Gorsuch started with an office in the hotel. The first paper was issued November 9, 1894. The paper lasted for about twenty years closing for lack of advertising interest. The Gorsuch family must have liked the hotel because in about 1915 Mr. Gorsuch purchased the hotel and it became known as **Gorsuch Hotel**. At about this time **The Post Office** was located in the hotel on the east end of the building with Stilwell Sivalls as postmaster.

In 1916 fire destroyed a home on the corner of Perry and Main Streets. It is said that the home was owned by a veterinarian who perished in the fire. The site was cleared and since it was a good business site, a group of businessmen created a partnership to build a garage at that location, and they also purchased the hotel. The hotel continued to operate and a restaurant called **U-KUM-INN** appears in a photo dated 1917.

In 1923 Mr. & Mrs. John Taulker purchased the hotel from the Woodville Garage partnership group. They called their hotel **The Woodville Hotel**. The building was inherited by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Taulker and remained within the Taulker family for thirty years. Old timers remember when Alvin and brother Irving Taulker operated a sandwich shop in the west downstairs area. **The J. H. Blausey Company** offices were in the hotel at one time, and probably many more renters and occupants that have not been named! The hotel had over 80 years of history at this location, and even more history prior to being moved to this location. The hotel was razed in 1963 to make way for a new Marathon Station.

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As mentioned previously, after fire destroyed a home on this corner, the **Woodville Garage Company** partnership was formed in 1915. George Hartman was the first proprietor of the new venture. Hartman sold Willys-Overland cars at this location.

In the mid 1930s there was a small office in the west end of the building that was used by the **M. C. Schnoor Insurance Agency.** Peter J. Schnoor joined his father's business in 1935. In the early 1940s **G & G Garage** moved to this building from 108 East Main Street (building that houses Past Times Remembered Antiques). Clarence Garn and Frank Grabenstetter were in a partnership for thirteen years at the two locations. The Riverside Dairy fleet was stored and serviced in this building. Later, Art Geisbuhler built a Quonset building on Oak Street and Clarence Rollins serviced the fleet. The Grabenstetter brothers started a new business in 1948 in brother Bob's garage. They manufactured "brikcrete" and built a plant at Route 20 and Route 23 and continued making brikcrete into the early 1950s. The business continued to evolve with the sale of lawnmowers and the SIMCA car. In 1969 Grabenstetters acquired the Gaelen Paul franchise and began the sale of Plymouths, Chryslers and Dodge vehicles at the Route 20 location. They sold the lawnmower business to Max Herman. **Grabenstetter & Sons, Inc**. sold the car dealership to Michael Rouen in 1986. The Grabenstetter family was in the automotive repair and sales business for nearly 60 years.

Once again the business operated as **Woodville Garage Company** with Elmer Bockbrader as the manager. This was in the mid to late 1940s. The village purchased a 1949 Plymouth police cruiser for $1,875 from Bockbrader.

Renovations and changes were made when the **Earl Blausey Company** business used the rear area of the building for repairs of earth moving equipment from 1951 through to the time of the fire. An eight-lane bowling alley was added in about 1950 and first managed by a gentleman from the Cleveland area. The business was called **Woodville Recreation Center** and in 1951 it was taken over by Henry Mohrman and Curtis Faist. The entrance to the bowling alley was at the west end of the building.

Also operating out of the front east side was a **Marathon Station**. There was very limited space to do much more than gas sales. There were several operators of the Marathon Station pumps beginning with Ray Kohlenberg, Red Helfer, Jim Owen, Mohrman & Faist, and Bill Hoodlebrink. This was in the 1950s and up to to when fire destroyed the entire building on January 8, 1963.

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After the January 1963 fire had destroyed the bowling alley and gas station offices and after the old hotel was demolished, a very modern and new full service **Marathon Station** opened. This station was built by Earl Blausey per specifications of Marathon Oil. This new station opened in the mid 1960s and was first managed by Dickson VanAlst. Loren McClish followed with Tom Mercer managing from about 1977 through 1986. Bob Hathaway was the last owner/manager from June 1986 to February 1997. Bob opened **Woodville Auto Care** at 415 Lime Road and is still doing service work at this location. The station was vacant for several years when Ken Green purchased the site for the future home of the Youth Center.

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The next block from Perry Street to Walnut Street is also completely different than the past. Today we see the offices of **The Huntington National Bank** and their parking lot. The bank building was constructed in 1968. When banking services moved here from the location of the present day library, the bank closed at noon on Wednesday and by Thursday AM was ready for customers in this building.

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The Post Office is the next building that was constructed in the late 1950s.

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L. C. Conold built this building in 1953, and **Conold's Drug Store** moved here from their previous location at the southeast corner of Main and Perry Streets. Conold used the east side of the store for the drug store and **Del's Supermarket** had the west half of the building. A new beginning was the 1st of January in 1958 when Daniel E. Mauntler and R. J. Molter purchased the drug store and began a partnership known as **M & M Pharmacy**. Another big change was in July 1968 when the drug store moved to their new building across Walnut Street at 100 East Main. **Del's Super Market, Inc**. became the sole occupant of the building. Extensive remodeling and renovations were completed and a 30 ft. addition was added to the rear of the building, and now there were wider aisles and new lighting and more freezer space. Son, Robert and his wife Linda, became the owners of the store in 1982 and Del eased into retirement. The family has been here in Woodville in the grocery business for 55 years.

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IN THE PAST: Now we'll look back at what once was here in this block from Perry to Walnut Street. Starting at Perry Street, the Gerbich Sisters home sat on the corner and Tillie and Anna had **a millinery shop** in their home. This was a very historic house that was demolished to make way for the new bank building.

The next home was the Taulker residence that was also torn down to make way for the new bank. In this general area and very early in Woodville history, 1885-1890 there was a reference to **The Henry Miller Harness Shop** being here. Henry Miller had the distinction of being the first to advertise in THE NEWS and he received a free subscription.

The next one story home was the DeWyre residence that was moved by the Lewis family to a lot on Lime Street immediately north of Woodville Auto Care. In about 1915 this home was the residence of **Dr. & Mrs. H. N. Trumbull**. A summer kitchen connected the house and office so he could walk from one to the other without going outside. **THE WOODVILLE NEWS** was once in the small office area. Later the summer kitchen was removed, and the house turned around and remodeled, and it became the Ervin DeWyre residence.

There was a very small building east of the DeWyre house that was first occupied by **Mr. Behrens** who was a shoemaker. An advertisement from 1885 was for a creamery operated by **Bruns-Otten-Rancamp** with buttermilk at one-half cent per gallon. A later ad listed Charles Kaemming as "the gatherer" for **The Woodville Creamery**. The last person to work in the creamery was August "Goosie" Hurdelbrink. The first creamery building was torn down in about 1900 and another small building put up. **THE WOODVILLE NEWS** office was also at this location at one time.

Once **Anthony Nuhfer's Shoe Repair** shop sat at the northwest corner of Main and Walnut. Later a home was built by George Keil that was later owned by Hattie Keil. The Harry Clark family was the last occupants of the home. This became the site of Conold's Drug Store and Del's Supermarket. Floyd Huston purchased the Keil house and moved it down Main Street to a lot at 226 Pemberville Road, now the home of Larry Wilt.

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The next block has gone through many changes and we are now seeing the third buildings throughout most of the block. Crossing into the next block that goes from Walnut to Portage Street, the first business is **Pills 'N'**

Packages owned by Michael D. Warren. Mr. Warren purchased the **M & M Drug Store** owned and managed by Dan Mauntler and R. J. Molter. Dan retired on January 1, 1991 after having worked in the local pharmacies for 42 years - he started with Bud Conold. This was also the end of a 33-year business partnership between Mauntler and Molter. R. J. Molter was retained as the manager of the new business, and he, too, has shortened his hours easing into retirement. Do you remember the "Rexall" drug brand? M & M Pharmacy was a Rexall store prior to becoming an independent drug store. The store was built by Mauntler and Molter and opened in July 1968.

Before the building of the drug store there was a residence on the corner that was built by **Attorney Edmund Voorhees.** At one time he had his law offices in his home, as well as being a Phenix Insurance Agent. Even earlier, another dwelling stood at this site that was the house of **Captain Nuhfer**, and at one time there was a **blacksmith shop** behind the house near the alley.

On the east half of the lot now occupied by the drug store, there once stood a block building used as a law office for **Glen Haas & Voorhees**. The **United States Post Office** was in this building during the 1930s and 1940s. When the Post Office moved to their new building where they are today, the newly organized **Trinity Assembly of God Church** met in this building for about five years from 1950 to 1955. The congregation moved to their new building at 722 College Avenue in mid-summer 1955. Following the Memorial Day fire in 1957, employees of the **Woodville State Bank** spent "one hot summer" in this temporary location! Later, there was a **laundry** in the building. The block building was razed in 1968 to make way for the new drug store.

Even earlier there was another building at this approximate location that housed the business of **The OK Barber Shop** with William "Coke" Davis, Proprietor. His 1894 advertisement stated: "laundry sent away." Later, Davis moved his business across the street to the building that is today Wittkamp Insurance.

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Robert and Linda Meyer opened an antique shop on June 14, 2002 appropriately named **Past Times Remembered**. Various dealers rent spaces and there is always something unique to be found and a delight to see all the furniture and things that are part of our past. The building was renovated and a new brick front ties this building to the small building that sat to the east. **Carpenter's Video** store opened in September 2002 in the front east corner of the building. The business just recently moved across the street to 111 East Main.

The early history of this building begins in the 1920s with Louie Stein's business known as **The Central Garage** that was also a Ford Sales Agency per a 1925 newspaper advertisement. A later advertisement states that L. H. Stein sold Dodge Brothers, Hudson & Essex cars. Another advertisement from the same paper states that F. J. Rohtert was selling NASH cars somewhere in town! In about 1928 until the early 1940s the **G & G Garage** was in the building. This was a partnership between Clarence Garn and Frank Grabenstetter. An ad for G & G Garage states: Studebaker Sales & Service and wrecking. This was the third location for **Gordon Lumber Company** with Roy Heineman as manager. The first Gordon store sold hardware and paint only and was in the building now gone that housed Nehl's & Heminger Clothing about where the Buckite portion of the former Ohio Lime Building stands. Gordon's second location was in the Molkenbur Building that sits in the alley behind Bloomer's Hair Salon off of North Walnut Street. Gordon Lumber was in Woodville from about the mid 1930s through mid 1950s. From about 1955 through late 1950s the building housed **Menter Motor Sales**. Buz Rojewski and Al Avers sold Ford cars from this location and Deputy Registrar Alice Sanders worked out of an office in this building.

Edward Melnek came to Woodville in October 1959 with his business, **Ansted-Daso Foods**, and located in this building. This business started in Toledo in 1947 and Ed gained partial control of the firm in 1951 and full ownership in 1960. In 1962 the

business moved to the former Martin Lumber Company building at 850 Water Street (now True Value of Woodville hardware store) and the name became **House of Melnek Foods, Inc**. The company was an institutional food supplier operating in about a 65-mile radius to Woodville.

Earl Blausey Contracting used the building as a repair shop from 1964 through to when they closed the business in 1993. The Book Guild Rummage Sales were held in the garage. Prior to the remodeling for the antique business, **Frames by Robin** was in the front east portion of the building from 1989 to 2001. Robin Paul moved to a new location in Elmore using a new name – Robin's Nest Framing Gallery.

Sitting next to the larger building described above was a small narrow commercial building that can no longer be seen as it is behind the new façade of the antique and video store. The history of this building begins with **M. G. Flaherty's Café** that was here in the late 1930s and early 1940s. There were two Bud's who owned **Bud's Café**. Bud Wolfe purchased the bar and was the owner until the early 1950s. Lyle "Bud" Boyer followed, and ran the bar for several years retiring in the fall of 1956 when he moved to Florida. **Johnson's Café** owned by Ralph and Alice Johnson were the next owners from 1957 to 1968. Several others owned the bar - owner Morrie Applegate called the bar **DISISIT.** The bar was known as **Shue's Bar** in the early 1990s when Robert Schumacher, Jr. ran the business. The last occupant was **Woodville Printing & Design** who left when the renovations were started. An interesting feature of this building was that an area that had a pool table and additional seating was actually within the larger building next door to the west.

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IN THE EARLIEST YEARS: Today we see a parking lot and the newly renovated façade of the antique store, but very early in Woodville's history there were other commercial buildings and houses in this block. An old-timers remembrance that placed the Coke Davis Barber Shop includes these additional memories of buildings long gone. Moving to the east of the barbershop was the **J. W. Crawford Bakery** building. Woodville's first movie theater, **The Show House**, was in this general location. From a 1901 Newspaper story: "extensive improvements are to be made at the Show House shortly and when completed will give Woodville a neat and attractive place of amusement. The Show House is doing a splendid business and is running the best of films on the market with an entire change of program each night."

Following the theater the building was used for a very short time as a **General Store** owned by a Jewish family and their business burned out. Next sat three small frame houses that William Cors Henricks helped to build. This was very early in the formation of the town, possibly as early as the 1840s. **The B. L. Capel General Store** was here in 1839, and was later purchased by **David Day** and may have been in this general vicinity as historians place him near Jacob Huff. One of the homes was the Huff residence and **Jacob Huff's Shoemaker Shop** may have been in his home. There were many shoemaking shops all of which made leather boots and shoes. The ladies wore pegged calfskin shoes, the men leather boots, and boys were proud to wear red-topped leather boots. Some of the shoemakers were also harness-makers. It has been told that **Pete Hansen's Shoe Business** was once on this side of the street and burned out (one of the three small houses was later moved to Pemberville Road and sits next to Todd Bowman's home). These remembrances are from the late Olive Hildebrandt, a descendent of William Cors Henricks.

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IN THE PAST: **Dooepker & Kaemming Hardware** was first across the street in an older building sitting where Country Hair Salon is now located. They moved to this location into an older building that was at this site, and we do not know how this building fit into Mrs. Hildebrandt's recollections. We do know that Charles Kaemming bought his partner out in about 1916, and he then built a new building at this location in 1925 operating as **C. F. Kaemming Hardware & Implement** store. There was a harness shop upstairs with vats that held oils used to cure the leather. The building had a large middle door at street level so a vehicle could drive into the building for loading. Later steps were added that covered this entry. **M. C. Schnoor Insurance** rented office space here in about 1928-30. Charles Kaemming died in 1950 and his son, Paul, took charge. Clarence Radeloff worked in the store for 35 years and Bill Radeloff was also there greeting customers. The business closed in August 1961 after over 55 years of hardware and implement business.

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The large red brick structure and yellow brick structure attached to the west side of the building is now rental office space.

First we'll explore what once was at the site of the yellow brick building. In the mid 1920s an older structure at this location was once home to the **Buckeye Restaurant**, Mrs. R H. Wilson, Proprietor. **Gordon Lumber** was located here when they first came to Woodville selling paint and hardware only, no lumber at this site. Later there were clothing stores: **Brugger's Mens Clothing, Fred Kneip's Clothing & Dry Cleaning** per a film reference of Woodville done in 1938, **Nehl's & Heminger Clothing** advertised in the school yearbook in 1939 and later **Art Hemminger, Clothier & Woodville Cleaners** are both mentioned in the same advertisement. By the mid 1940s the ads were for **Woodville Cleaners and August Alesi Footwear, Clothing & Cleaning** as the business emphasis changed.

The old building was razed in the very late 1940s, and the yellow-brick structure was built. **Buckite Refractories** Division, a fully owned subsidiary of Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company, was on the first floor of this building and Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company used the second floor. **The Sandusky County Court** moved to this location in 1989 and left in June 2000 for their newly renovated offices next to the Town Hall.

Once the **Cosmopolitan Hotel** stood at the site of the red brick structure. The Proprietor was John H. Furry (died 1888) and some references will call the hotel **The Furry Hotel**, later son William Furry was the manager. The 1874 Atlas refers to the Cosmopolitan Hotel so it was here at the time of that publication. There was once a livery stable back of the hotel. Later Mike Flaherty, a Mr. Wells and two or three others conducted the business known as **Flaherty's Rooming House**. **Ohio Hydrate & Supply Company** bricked around the old hotel and completely renovated the building to the attractive building that we see today. The company organized in 1916 and their first offices were in the Keil Building. As business grew and prospered, they renovated this building and moved here. The Hydrate was later known as **Ohio Lime Company.** Finally, after several changes in ownership this large building was no longer needed, and the offices moved into the Research Facility located on Anderson Road adjacent to the plant. The lime plant history is more fully covered by Bob Rieman in his story about the Lime Industry.

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Crossing Portage Street on the way to Bridge Street, the first building is the recently remodeled and renovated office of **Woodville Mutual Insurance**, the remodeling was completed in 1994. Also, housed in the building are the offices of **Securance Service, Inc.** and **Secure Realty.**

Woodville Mutual is one of the oldest organizations in a four-county area serving Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood County farmers. A small group of German settlers gathered in 1859 to form an insurance mutual to cover fire and wind damages. Their first office was said to be in a "little white school house" on the Henricks farm southwest of Woodville on Route 105. (This may have been the first Henricks/Fork School that was later replaced by a brick structure). On May 6, 1885, the fire division was incorporated under the name **The German Farmers Mutual Protection Association**. Later, the cyclone division was incorporated in 1908. Both divisions continued to grow and merged in 1959 forming **Woodville Mutual.** Present officers are Jonathon Younker and Warren Haar.

The history of **Securance Service, Inc**. goes back to about 1928 when Milton C. Schnoor purchased Mrs. C. C. Layman's insurance business. In 1935 son Peter J. joined the business and they were located at many different locations finally moving here in 1938. Lyle P. Younker, son-in-law of Milton, came into the agency in 1948 and the business was known as **Schnoor Insurance Agency** with a branch office in Gibsonburg. In 1956 they incorporated as Securance Service, Inc., and today there is an additional branch office in Oak Harbor. Jonathon Younker manages the property and casualty portion of the business. Stephen Younker, along with Daniel Henery, manage the Health & Life Insurance Division. The third generation is now involved in the business, Jonathon and Stephen Younker are grandsons of the founder.

The site was the location of the first **Standard Oil Station** with Roy Heineman as manager. In the early 1920s the station moved across the street where Subway is today.

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Today we see a residence at 208 East Main Street that was built by Raymond Hughes. **Unger Meat Market** was once at this location and was torn down when the Hughes home was built. The next house was the residence of the Gaynor Family (Mrs. Gaynor and Mrs. Hughes were the daughters of Mike Flaherty) who was in business with several ventures at several locations around the town. **Cousino Flower Shop** was in the former Gaynor home starting in about 1981 and then moved across the street to the present location.

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Woodville Citgo gas station sits at the corner of SR 105 and Bridge Street managed by Greg Olmen. This site has been a service station since 1953 when John Stevens Oil Company opened a **City Service Station**. There have been several owners and changes in franchise over the years**. Dave's Cities Service** was here in 1958 per an advertisement, and later **Henry Gackstetter's Woodville Cities Service** in the early 1960's. Bill Wyatt was the manager in about 1966, and later in 1969 Jim Applegate and Wes Williams named the station **J&W Citgo Service.**

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Just behind the service station is **Henson Plumbing & Heating** owned by Chuck Henson who opened his business in June 1995. Chuck remodeled the building with the attractive storefront that faces Bridge Street. The building was built in 1968 by Herbert Busdiecker. Here Herb and son, Eugene, operated **Woodville Home Service, Inc**., a non-union plumbing, heating and electrical business that closed in 1991. Herb was in business since 1928 and came to the shop almost every day for over 60 years. The building was vacant for a few years until Chuck Henson purchased the site.

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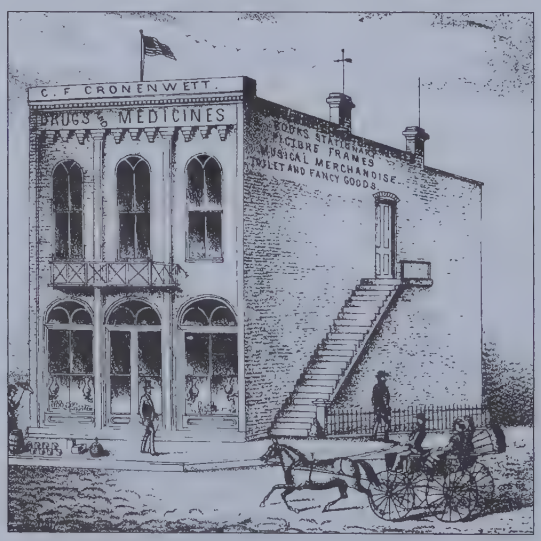
IN THE EARLIEST YEARS: While this might appear to be a sleepy block today with only two commercial ventures, once it was a thriving location probably due to proximity to the river and on the Maumee and Western Reserve Roadway. The 1860 map of Woodville shows **Blinn's Store** sitting where the insurance office stands today. Blinn started in the retail business with **C. H. Damschroder, Sr.** in a store on the Damschroder farm east of Sugar Creek on Route 20. The story of Damschroder Stores spans four generations starting with C. H., Sr., followed by C. H., Jr. who moved the business to Elmore, followed by Augustus and wife Dorothea, and finally by their daughter, Ethel Damschroder Rutherford..... over 100 years.

To the east of the two homes that we still see today were three structures. The first old building was the **Elderkin House** or Hotel with J. P. Elderkin as the owner. It was later sold to **H. Froney** who was a mortician and this was in 1866-67 and there is a historical reference to a fire. However, the building was not destroyed as the history seems to go on somewhat uninterrupted. **Peter Egley** who was a mortician who also sold furniture was here from 1870 until about 1882. **M. G. Veh Funeral Home & Furniture** was in Woodville for about a decade between 1882 and 1892 prior to establishing in Gibsonburg.

The second old building was at one time the William Keil family home. Later, the residence was known as **Villbrandt's Boarding House** and was here until about 1938. **John Hartman** may have had his restaurant in the Boarding House at one time. He was at many locations throughout the town. The house was torn down in the early 1950s to make way for the service station.

The third old building, a two story brick building that was painted white in its last years was constructed very early. **Charles F. Cronenwett Drug Store** was established in 1858 and he was first in business at another unknown location. He built this building in 1872 and this picture is from the 1874 Atlas. Charles was the eldest son of the Rev. George Cronenwett who was the first pastor of Solomon Lutheran Church. An early historical reference states that the shell of the Thomas & Harriet Miller cabin was still visible at the rear of the drug store at one time. **Dr. Durbin** purchased the drug store around 1900 and the **Jenson Livery Stable** was behind the store. **Migliori & Mattoni Groceries** was once at this site probably in the early 1920s - the museum has a grocery cart from this store.



The building sat empty from the mid to late 1930s. Herbert Busdiecker purchased the building in December 1938, remodeled the upstairs into the apartment that his family used, and the downstairs housed **H. W. Busdiecker Plumbing, Heating and Sheet Metal** business. In 1949, Herb put up a building in the alleyway that was a sheet metal shop below with

an apartment above. Herbert had purchased a commercial building from Mike Flaherty at 109 Portage Street that was rented to car dealers. Herb moved the plumbing business to the Portage Street location in 1949. Lawrence Heseman moved his barbershop into the front portion of the two-story brick building when the plumbing shop was relocated and remained here retiring when the building was sold as a location for the service station.

This concludes our trip up and down Main Street and what is known about the business district of the town. Probably there are omissions and errors in the story; however, we have shared what we were able to find.

MAIN STREET WEST, Woodville, Ohio

EARLY STREET SCENES About 1915

- looking down Route 20 going west from Walnut Street.
- Keil Hdwe. is selling auto supplies and gasoline.
- The newly built Goecker Bakery is selling ice cream.
- Model T's in the picture.

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MAIN STREET EAST, Woodville, Ohio

- Looking down Route 20 going east from Walnut Street
- There are more buggies and horses on the street than automobiles.
- The building that houses today's library has been built.
- The old iron bridge sits at the center of the picture at an angle for a shorter crossing of the river.

TAVERNS/HOTELS/INNS/MOTELS

The Wood Tavern was across the river with Valdi Wood as the tavern keeper. Many of the early town and township meetings were held at the tavern that was located on what is today Price/Trumbull property on East Main Street.

In the 1840s somewhere close to Sugar Creek was the **C. B. Collins Trading Post** that became **Lewis Jennings Tavern.**

The McBride Tavern sat on the southwest side of Sugar Creek on the Maumee and Western Reserve Turnpike, and was built in 1845 by Michael McBride. The tavern was in the Greek Revival Style and had a large ballroom on the second floor. The building was torn down and burned in 1969 when Route 20 was widened. A barn still stands on the west side of the site.

The Barnard House owned by Fred Barnard stood where the Fire Department Building now stands off Findlay Road. **The Pennsylvania House** managed by Henry Rearick stood on the northwest corner of Elm and Main Streets. Both men are mentioned in the 1860 census as Hotel Keepers. Other early hotels mentioned in the article touring Main Street are: **The Elderkin House**, **The American House**, the **Center House** that was moved and became **The Brady House** and later **The Woodville Hotel**, and the **Cosmopolitan Hotel.**

Even though there were several hotels, it is told that during the oil boom finding a place to sleep was difficult and many residents took in boarders.

Along with the beginning of auto travel came the Tourist Home. The brick house at 621 West Main Street (Churchill residence) was once the **Wilkey Tourist Home**. Next door was the **Hartman Tourist Home** (Robert Meyer residence). At Busy Corners (Route 51 and US 20) was **KenMarInn** that was a restaurant and at one time was also a tourist home.

Clarence Garn had two tourist camps, one in Perrysburg named **Rest-A-While**, and outside of Woodville going west on Route 20 was **U-Need-A-Rest.** Tourist camps and early motels were in small free-standing buildings. A restaurant was adjacent to U-Need-A-Rest and was managed by Garn, later by **Jim and Mabel Webb** in the late 1940s, then was known as **Betty & Harry's Restaurant** in the 1950s, and later **Herman's Restaurant.** Most of the buildings have been torn down, but the site is still evident.

At the corner of SR 105 and US 20 is the **DeLux Inn** owned by the Patel family. Once the German Methodist Church was here which was destroyed by fire, and for decades the foundation of the former church stood in a field of weeds. During the mid 1940s the Cobra Boy Scout Patrol camped out on the vacant lot, and for a few years Christmas trees were sold here. In the late 1940s and early 1950s **Woodville Auto Sales** sold used cars at this location.

In 1953 Bud and Opal Wolfe built **The Portage Motel** with a small apartment above the office area. They sold the business to Joe Sohajda in January 1966, and he later sold to Laurel "Sonny" and Cherie Pierce who owned the motel from October 1969 to 1979. The Sohajdas increased the size of the upstairs apartment and the Pierces made it even larger. Sandy Newell purchased the business and was here for the decade of the 1980s. She sold to Patels who changed the name to DeLux Inn.

Other locations around the town that have long business histories are as follows:

FAYE'S WHIPPY DIP – 310 East Main Street

In the 1920s there was a milk station for the **Babcock Dairy** that stood here in the triangle. Local milk route gatherers brought the milk in cans to the station where Babcock picked up the cans and left a supply of cans for next day collections. Later, a Quonset style building was put up in about 1935 and **G & G Garage** used the building to service busses and trucks until about 1943. At this time the area was low lying with cattails and poor drainage. An aerial photo from 1950 shows that **Mylander Implement** was here at that point in time. Later, in the 1960s **Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, Inc**. used the building for cleaning bulk tank trucks.

In 1970 the site was purchased by Bill and Alberta Gries and family who opened **Woodville Coin-op Laundry**. They added a walk-in **Dairy Queen** window in 1978 and restaurant seating in 1979. Mark and Faye O'Connor purchased the business and opened in 1980 as **Faye's Whippy Dip**. Mark died in 1992 and Faye continued the business and now their daughter Kelly manages the business.

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TRUE VALUE HARDWARE – 850 Water Street

The building was constructed by Leonard Martin for his business, **Martin Lumber Company**, and the grand opening was in August 1955. In 1972 Ed Melnek moved Ansted-Daso Foods from Main Street to this location and in 1972 changed the business name to **House of Melnek, Inc.** The business closed in 1991.

The building was vacant for a few years until 1993 when Mark Flick moved **MDF Construction** to this location, and was in business here until sometime in 2001. Phil Trumbull relocated **True Value Hardware** from Main Street to this building in 1998, first sharing space with MDF, and now the sole occupant. **Woodville Secure Storage** is behind the hardware and opened in 2000.

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TRI-COUNTY BOWLING LANES – 512 Lime Road

After fire destroyed the Main Street bowling alley in January 1963, councilman Arlington Ferguson urged the Woodville Industrial Committee to promote the building of a new bowling alley. The committee later known as Woodville Improvement Corporation was formed to look for businesses and industry and help them locate in Woodville. A partnership was formed by Arthur Geisbuhler and Lou Klappich and **The Fountain of Youth Lanes** opened September 1, 1963.

At one time in about 1969 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schumaker sold bowling and sports supplies in the game room at the alley. Their business was called **Woodville Sport Shop.**

Melvin and Dee Burner took over the lanes in August 1977 and operated as **Mel-O-Dee Bowling Lanes**. Today the alley is known as **Tri-County Bowling** and has been operated by Steve Burner since 1993.

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RED ROCK AUTO AUCTION – 531 Lime Road

Joe Gentry started the auction business in 1991. Dealer auctions are held every Thursday, and public auctions are held every first and third Saturday of each month.

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WOODVILLE AUTOCARE – 415 Lime Road

This building has been the home to automotive businesses from the beginning. The building was constructed in about 1949 to house **Barnes Motor Sales.** Barnes first location had been at 109 Portage Street. Barnes sold Kaiser-Fraser cars including the "The Manhattan" which was the top of the line. When the manufacturer discontinued making cars, the business closed. When Barnes Motor Sales left the Portage Street building, **Harvey John's Buick** sales moved in. When this building at 415 Lime Road became available in the early 1950s, the Buick sales then moved to this location. Buick's were sold here through the 1950s and into the early 1960s, the last dealership was **Dick Hardgrove Buick Sales.**

In the late 1960s Ray Lewis started **Woodville Auto Service, Inc**. that was a service garage business. He acquired the Jeep/American Motors franchise from Joe Gentry and started to sell cars as **Lewis-American Jeep**.

Bob Hathaway closed his Marathon Station on Main Street and started **Woodville Autocare** at this location in early 1997. Scott Gentry also sells used cars from this location.

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MODERN TRADE COMMUNICATIONS – 109 Portage Street

A livery stable once sat at this site. One old-timer said it was **Henry Molkenbur's Livery** and another places the business elsewhere. Mike Flaherty built the present building sometime in the 1940s to house his contracting equipment. Herb Busdiecker bought the building from Flaherty in 1948 and rented the space to **Barnes Motor Sales** and later to **Harvey Johns Buick Sales**. In 1950 Herb moved his business from the corner of Main and Water Streets to this building. **Busdiecker Plumbing & Heating, Inc.** and later **Busdiecker, Inc**. had their shop and offices at this location. In the late 1950s, the business turned to commercial and industrial work and son, Walter, was the President of the family business. The company closed in 1984.

Jerry Kepus rented office space for his **HPSI/AME Group Purchasing** business for several years and is now in offices located behind his home at 774 Riverside Drive.

Mr. Sam Milnark purchased the building in 1995, and renovated and remodeled to the very attractive structure we see today. His business is known as **Modern Trade Communications** publishing magazines for the metal construction industry.

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GAIL'S QUIK TRIP – 1115 West Main Street

Frank Lucki started this business and built the building. He was born in Montreal, Canada, and became a citizen of the United States when he served in World War II. He

purchased **Vier's Truck Line** in March 1946 and renamed the business **Highway Transportation**. His offices were first located in the small frame house at the west end of College Avenue across from the two-story apartment buildings. He sold the business to Matlack, Inc. in 1964. Then he became a broker and leased equipment to Gateway Transportation and Long Transportation and he had 16 rigs on the road.

He then took the business in another direction when he and Myra opened **Lucki Car Wash & Party Store** in February 1968 in the building that we see today. Lucki sold to Al Tolento who operated the business as **El Jardin Plaza.** Tolento moved to Florida in the mid 1980s and his sons continued the business. Fred Winters then took over in 1987 operating as **Woodville Drive-Thru**. In 1989 Bruce Sample purchased the business and operates as **Gail's Quik Trip**. The business is a party store, as well as selling Sunoco gasoline. **Beck's Pizza** is in the west half of the building.

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GRANNY'S KITCHEN – 1105 West Main Street

This business began as the **Woodville Dairy Isle** and later **Woodville Dairy Bar** and was built by George and Barbara Rospert in the fall of 1957. They sold the business to Harold and Janet Fitzpatrick who operated as **The Woodville Restaurant** from 1982 to 1986. Fred Winters then took over and called the business **Winter's West End Restaurant** and closed in 1993. Judy Dawson purchased the business in March 1993 and today the business is known as **Granny's Kitchen.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

McDONALD'S RESTAURANT – 924 West Main St.

Our kids were thrilled when the Golden Arches appeared and McDonald's opened their doors on January 26, 1996. Judy and Dale Becker were excited about bringing the business to town and are very pleased with their reception into the Woodville business community. The Beckers work very closely with the school offering incentives for academic achievement and offering discount coupons on tickets sold at athletic events.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ALL WASHED UP CAR WASH – 123 Dick Street

Steve Green built the car wash and opened for business in August 1990. He recently sold the business in February 2003 to Brad and Marcia Copley of Gibsonburg.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TJ'S BODY SHOP – 927 West Main Street

Gaelen Paul opened **Paul's Auto Sales** in January 1948 and sold Plymouth and DeSoto cars. He was in business for 21 years at this location. In 1969 he sold the dealer franchise to Grabenstetter & Sons and the building to Joe Gentry and Ralph Huston, and they opened as **American Motor Sales** selling Nash Ramblers. Later they changed the name to **Woodmore Motor Sales**, and in 1971 Gentry bought out Huston.

As franchise and dealership alignments changed and when Jeep and American Motors merged, Gentry sold the franchise to Ray Lewis in 1973. Joe continued in the used car and car rental business. Today **Red Rock Auto Sales** (used cars) and **TJ's Body Shop** are both at this location.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NAPA AUTO PARTS/WESTWOOD AUTO PARTS
901 West Main Street

In the 1940s and into the 1950s Milton "Pop" Schnoor and his wife Ev had a hamburger joint and small grocery store in their home – Al's Super Market. Barbara Hudson Mauntler purchased the Schnoor property and developed Westwood Auto Parts store in about 1971.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE HARVEY KNIERIM BUILDING – 414 West Main Street

Dr. Henry Busch and Adolph Busch had **a drug store** at this site before the turn of the century. Etta and Freda Busch had **a millinery shop** in a home that was next door. Dr. Busch built the large brick home at the corner of Lime Street and Main Street now owned by the Troy Thorbahns.

Harvey Knierim built the commercial building at this site and had his plumbing shop here for many years from sometime in the late 1940s until he eased into retirement in the early 1970s. He also sold appliances as an advertisement in 1952 shows a picture of a Norge washing machine.

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LITTLE SHOP ON THE PORTAGE – 330 West Main Street

Jacob Gfeller once had a blacksmith shop on this corner and the Gfeller family lived where Olga Rolf lives today. The very small house next to Olga's home was used as sort of a summer kitchen and here Mrs. Gfeller and her daughters cooked for the oil men during the boom.

The building that we see today was constructed in 1923 by Henry Hartman at a cost of $1000 for the first owner, Frederick Neusies, who operated **Neusies Repair & Filling Station**. He was a handy man able to repair "just about anything" and he continued in business until 1949.

Frank Thatcher purchased the building and opened **Portage Cleaners** and was here for several years. He rented office space to **Herbert Spencer Insurance** in the 1960s. Herb left this location and spent several years in the Hick's Building on West Main Street, and then moved back downtown to the office that is today Wittkamp Insurance. Herb had the distinction of being the first Sandusky County resident to enlist following Pearl Harbor. Herb joined the Navy on December 8, 1941.

Roger Weber purchased the building for his photography business known as **Creative Photography**. Later he continued the business from his home on Lime Road.

The Potpouri Store was here in the early 1980s and moved into the business district to what had been Bowman's Jewelry Store and was there for a few years.

Mary Asmus started **Little Shop On The Portage** in the summer of 1986 and has a full line of Precious Moments, all of Department 56 lighted villages and many other collectibles.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WOODVILLE DAIRY BUSINESSES

Village Farm Dairy was built by William Hartwell Price in 1906 and stood next to the Trumbull home on East Main Street. Price had a herd of over 50 pure-bred Jerseys and also bought milk from local farmers. Bottled table cream was the specialty and the dairy had

a capacity of producing 500# of butter per day. The dairy closed in the 1920s, was later used as apartments, and the building was razed in the late 1970s.

The George Hartman Dairy Farm was within the corporation limits, so town people brought their tin or enamel pails to the farm to purchase milk. Hartman decided to sell bottled milk in quarts and pint glass containers and to deliver to residents. He had a cream-colored milk wagon that was trimmed in green and pulled by a dappled-gray horse. The horse knew exactly where to stop and would move on and wait for him at the next stop. Sons, Leo and Dick helped with the milk route.

Art Geisbuhler bought the Hartman Dairy in 1925 and started in the Price Dairy Building. He also bought Hartman's horse and milk wagon and the horse wanted to go back to Hartman's barn at the end of the day. Art moved the business to 621 Water Street, remodeled the home and made the lower floor into the dairy. He operated as **Riverside Dairy.** His wife, Martha, kept the books and at one time over 20 people worked at the dairy. Besides the usual milk products that were trucked to several towns in the area and residential milk routes, they had ice cream and a delightful bottled orange drink.

During World War II the dairy used German POWs who were interred at Camp Perry to staff the dairy. Young Bill Heminger drove the bus that picked up the prisoners and he had an accident at a curve on Route 105, tipped the bus over and broke his arm, but not a scratch on the POWs. Ohio Hydrate and Standard Lime had prisoners of war that worked there and the Heinz tomato docks in Genoa were staffed by prisoners.

During the last five years in business, the dairy operated as **Linder-Riverside Dairy.** The Geisbuhlers retired in 1967.

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PLUMBERS

In addition to those previously mentioned, we know of the following: **Harry Huntebrinker** once worked with Herb Busdiecker and later went on his own in the mid 1950s operating from his garage on Perry Street

William Busdiecker & Son have been in business for the last 15 years or so and work from Bill, Sr.'s home at 646 Borcherding Road. Bill, Sr. died on January 23, 2002, and Bill, Jr. is carrying on the family business. Bill, Sr. was Herb's nephew and Bill, Jr. is Herb's grand-nephew.

Chris McIntire owns **Mac's Heating & Cooling** and has been in business since 1991 and was the recipient of the PRISM Horizon Award for emerging new businesses in 1995. He has his trucks and equipment at 834 West College Avenue. His entrepreneurial drive continues as he recently became a certified advisor for Senior Outlook Solutions, Ltd., an asset protection service for senior citizens and retirees.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

There have been many, many talented painters and decorators that have worked here in Woodville. Those that we can remember and have seen their advertisements are: **W. M. Fletcher** and **August Niermann** in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

William Basey sold picture frames, wallpaper and paints and had a store where the brick parsonage of the Lutheran Church now stands. Once there were five structures in this block. Moving westward from Cherry Street: 1) Solomon's old frame parsonage that was later Sunday School rooms and Parish House – and was moved to near the railroad tracks on Lynn Street, 2) another home, 3) the Basey Store, 4) Meinert's Store, and 5) the church (even earlier the William Keil home with his tin shop was where the Parish House once stood.) Time goes by and we are now seeing the third structures at many locations.

Irving Taulker took over Basey's business and operated as **Irving Taulker Paint & Paper**. Mr. Taulker used a handcart loaded with his supplies and ladders that was moved from job to job. Other painters: **John Meyer, I. G. Hoesman, Luther Miller, E. L. Gerbich, G. H. Gerbich, Harry Hildebrandt, Harry Raehrs, Wayne Bruns, Richard Meyer Decorating**, and today we have **John Kruse**.

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BEAUTY SHOPS

One of the earliest shops was in the home of **Amelia Myers** on West Main Street. This was at a time when marcelled hair was in style. **Laura Kerbel's** shop was in the home of George Cronenwett on First Street. **Edith Chairelli DeMarco** had a shop in her home at 207 Water Street in the late 1930s. **Margaret Ross Snyder** purchased her business and worked from her home. **Irene Harpel Lowry** had a shop in her home on West First Street for many, many years. Shirley DeRammelaere worked at Irene's and later opened her own shop called **Shir-Lee-Ann's** at her home at 752 Water Street. Mary Ann Flowers Gottschalk had **Mary Ann's Beauty Shop** at her parent's home at 112 South Perry from 1947 to 1982 – 35 years. **Barb Schnitker** once had a beauty shop in her home on South Walnut Street.

Today Chris Bloom operates Bloomer's Hair Salon in a remodeled garage by her home at 209 North Walnut Street.

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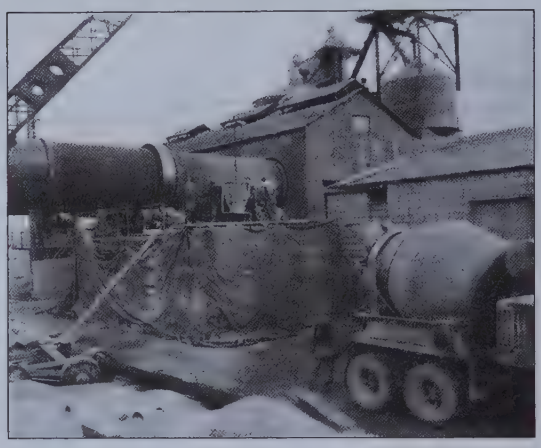
GROUND LEVEL, INC. (GLI) – 873 W. Main Street

GLI is a complete site development company, specializing in public and private commercial projects servicing General Contractors and Owners in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan since 1991. Locally, GLI purchased the Glenn Graffice & Son business on November 4, 1999.

Glenn Graffice & Son, Inc. started in business on January 1, 1959. Glenn and his son, Hugh, and wife Floy were joined by son-in-law William Obermyer who came into the company in 1961, and the grandchildren also worked in the family oriented business. The company started small with about 10 employees and grew to 120 at peak construction times. The primary work was sewer work, excavation and quarry overburden removal. Graffice's offices were once on SR 300 outside of Gibsonburg, but moved to the Woodville location as the company expanded and changes were made to the buildings. As the company grew they became more specialized in site preparation, and also produced asphaltic concrete from their own plant in Woodville and ran a stone sales operation in Genoa.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ROSS CONCRETE 1918 – 1961



This business started when Louis L. Ross and Lawrence Molkenbur made cement blocks by hand in a small building off the alley back of the library. Louis Ross continued the block business and built a new building on Water Street in 1925 and his son, Lowell, joined the business in 1930 and son, Olin, a few years later. The business was known as L. L. Ross & Sons. They continued to upgrade equipment making multiple blocks with a steam room to age them more efficiently and outbuildings were added to store their growing selection of building supplies. When the Ohio Turnpike was being built, they entered the Ready-Mix Concrete field as there was great need for bulk concrete. Louis retired and Lowell's sons-in-law joined the family business. In 1958 several more large buildings were constructed as garages and workshops for the up-keep of the ready-mix trucks. Olin died suddenly in 1959. The ready-mix portion of the business was sold to the Urschels in 1961, and son-in-law David Duseberg then worked for the Urschels. Lowell and son-in-law Dale Kruse continued the block and building supply business. Lowell retired in 1961 and this family business closed after over 40 years of existence.

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ATLAS INDUSTRIES, INC. – East Main Street

Theodore E. Clark founded the business in 1943 with five employees machining various types of precision parts for the war effort. Atlas has established facilities in Gibsonburg, Dunkirk (now closed), Fremont and Tiffin. Atlas is one of the nation's largest manufacturers of small and medium size crankshafts, as well as other automotive components. The Woodville Plant closed in 1992 and is now used for warehousing purposes. The management of Atlas participates in and has representation in many community organizations; such as the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and Terra Technical College.

LUCKEY FARMERS, INC. – 1200 W. Main Street

Luckey Farmer's – General Office

Luckey Farmer's – Woodville Elevator

The agricultural cooperative started in Luckey on January 31, 1919. The first acquisition was in 1927 when they acquired the struggling Lemoyne Farmers Elevator. After the Bruns Mill fire the cooperative recognized a need for an elevator to serve the Woodville area, and an elevator was built here in 1930.

As the country recovered from the depression, the cooperative also started to make improvements to their properties. William F. Schnitker was the General Manager through the World War II years. Vincent C. Kahle was named General Manager in 1949 and growth continued with the acquisition of Sugar Ridge Grain, Ottawa County Co-op and Oak Harbor Cooperative. Mr. Kahle served a total of 32 years. Daniel W. Walski became the General Manager in 1981 and during his tenure Perrysburg Grain, and F&L Farm & Supply have been acquired. Luckey Farmers serves the Northwest Ohio counties of Lucas, Wood, Ottawa and Sandusky and parts of Lower Michigan.

Each spring the cooperative has their annual dinner meeting, and the program booklet includes a listing of employees. There were 112 employees and many, many of the people have been at Luckey Farmers for a life-time. Walter Holtmeyer who was the local Woodville Manager recently retiring with 47 years of service. General Managers have also served for many years as there have only been 8 managers over the 83 years of the cooperatives existence.

Luckey Farmers, Inc. consists of the General Office here in Woodville, 12 branches, 2 service garages and 3-24 hour fuel stations. They are structured with five departments: Agronomy, Feed, Grain, Accounting and Fuel. The company is the largest agricultural cooperative in the State of Ohio.

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CHIPPEWA TOOLS – 1101 Oak Street

Byron Kusian started Chippewa Tools in Williston in 1994 and opened here in Woodville in 2002. His son, Jim and partner Dave Perry now manage the machine shop business.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EMCH BROTHERS, INC. – 1902 West Main Street

Brothers John and Bill Emch started in business in 1973 doing primarily farm tiling/drainage. Today they have expanded to developing and installing drainage systems for Athletic Fields and commercial sites. Once clay tile was used for most drainage systems; however, today plastic drainage pipe is used for most installations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HIDDEN HILLS GOLF COURSE – 4886 CR 16

The first nine holes opened in 1968 soon followed by the back nine, and the course will be observing their 35th year in business this summer. A beautiful fountain near the 9th hole was dedicated at the course's 20th anniversary in memory of the course's founder, Oarel Pierce.

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GOING BACK IN TIME TO THE VERY EARLY DAYS

It has been told that in 1834 John Duke, an Irishman, opened the first General Store in a log cabin on the north-side of the pike where the town is now located. Another historian states that Duke was "an old Scotsman" and that his cabin was close to the river near the mill and post office.

Mr. Luethie's General Merchandise was an early store. He was a dreamer who advocated dredging the Portage River to Lake Erie so small boats could come as far as Woodville. His business may have been at site of the Cosmopolitan Hotel per early real estate records.

There is little written about the earliest years prior to 1850. There were very few stores and businesses, and we know that the early settlers were self-sufficient people working with family and neighbors to meet their needs. Also, the power of the river was used when David B. Banks built the first mills in 1835 about a half-mile south of town. A gristmill was on the west side of the river and a sawmill was on the east bank. The customers had to use their own horses or the mill's oxen to run the mills. The last operator of the mill was William Hendricks.

Beginning in about 1860 there are more written records, and also there were more businesses developing to serve the growing population. We have found references to many older businesses and little tidbits of information from newspaper advertisements, census information, the 1874 Atlas, and other old records. Exact locations are not known as old time writings often placed locations "as next to the variety store" and there was more than one variety store. References found are as follows:

Phile Clock Company	building later used by the churches
Nick Smith & Phillip Con – shoemakers	from 1850 Census
Amos Blank Sawmill – later sold to Tille Brothers	1866 - 1872
Phillip Roll – dealer in dry goods and groceries	1874 Atlas
John Peters Sawmill	1874 Atlas
Thomas Truman – carpenter	1874 Atlas
George Albert, Mfg. Cider & Vinegar (site Earl Emch farm)	1874 Atlas
William Zacharius Sorghum Mill	
H. H. Geyer Hardware Dealer & Insurance	1874 Atlas
Henry Schroeder – shoemaker	1874 Atlas – on back lot at 102 E. First St.
H. Rancamp – merchant	1886-1887 Newspaper
H. Rancamp & W. W. Price General Store	where the Variety Store sits
(recollection of John Nieman written in the early 1930s – at the time there were two variety stores)	
Paul Krohn General Mdse.	bought out Rancamp – old Newspaper
Kent Seaman – Grocer	per John Nieman
F. Bushman Furniture Shop	on Molkenbur lot – per John Nieman
William Basey Saloon	1885-87 – site of white frame house
at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets – the former Lutheran parsonage	
W. J. Keil Woollen Mill – carding	1888 History Book
J. F. Meyer Shingle Factory & Wool Carding Mill	
Lewis Maynard Sawmill	1888 History Book
Caleb Clink Sawmill – on Moenter farm on CR 107	
Sawmill on CR 165 – Pierce farm – name not known	
John Kruse Hardware & Implement	here for a few years and he returned to Genoa
Hartman Brothers Tile	1896 Invoice
William Keil Lumber Yard	
Phillips' the Jeweler	1898 Newspaper
John Fingerhut – Shoemaker	shop on Blanchard property
F. Emch General Repairs	at site of Dr. Blanchard's small office
C & J Keil's Restaurant	1898 Newspaper
Albert Keil's Confectionary	1898 Newspaper
W. G. Titsword – billposter and distributor	1898 Newspaper

Meinert & Meyers Sawmill – purchased by Fred Sandwisch – became known as Fred Sandwisch Lumber – later as Sandwisch Brothers – located near the river about where the Boy Scout Cabin now stands. The Sandwisch brothers were barn builders in the 1880s and 1890s, and also built many of the plainly styled farm homes with "balloon" construction where the supporting timbers rise from foundation to roof with no fire stops between the floors. Several early commercial buildings, including the Woodville Normal, were built by Fred Sandwisch. Succeeding generations continued as builders – Joe Sandwisch built many, many homes in Woodville.

Bittinger Sawmill – sawmill, lumberyard, cooper – the business started in 1876 making barrels. An 1897 ad is for "barrels, slack and tight" and some of the early sewers were also wooden. Bruns Mill needed flour barrels and the lime industry shipped in barrels. In 1906 D. H. Bittinger employed 35 men and had a thriving business. The business was at Cherry and Depot Streets.

Gossman & Son, Tailor – pressing 1906 Newspaper

Progressive Printing 1916 Newspaper

Many of the following old businesses existed when the horse was the mode of transportation and before tractors were used.

C. A. Johnsmyer – wagon-builder 1860 census

J. C. Nichols – harness maker 1874 Atlas

Wagoner & Creager – wagons & harness 1885 -1887

Moore & Isabell Shop followed by Brady Wagon Shop & Livery – on the north side of Main Street on Cherry Street about where and the Harsanje residence now stands.

Ernest H. Meyer Wagon Shop 1880 – 1890

William Lachmiller Wagons moved here in 1881

Fairchild Livery Barn – by the elevator 1890 – 1900

Dr. M. J. Carey Livery – the Village's first mayor – some of the doctors kept their own horses.

Smith & T. S. Magee advertised feed and stall space 1901 Newspaper

Henry Neveaux Livery Stable (just off the bridge about where Dr. Kahle's Office stands). He often drove for Dr. Blanchard. Englehart Livery followed at the same location.

Others with livery stables: William Basey, Carl Hansen, and Mr. S. Crawford in about 1894.

The City Dray – S. Jensen, Proprietor 1897 Newspaper

C. Herman's Ice House 1898 Newspaper

At one time there were 5 icehouses in town. When the river was frozen, the ice was harvested and sawed into squares, stored in the icehouses using sawdust to insulate. The "draying" services delivered ice, as well as offering hauling services for hire.

Woodville Ice & Draying 1907 Invoice

Henry Molkenbur Draying 1909 Newspaper

Harry Keil Draying 1913 Newspaper

Ralph Myers Ice House/Woodville Coal & Ice Co. – on Portage Street by Norm Viers burned out in 1929 after being struck by lightning

Paul Sandwisch Dray & Ice 1938 Film

There were other businesses related to serving the farmers in the area. There were many butchers and stock dealers in the early years. Henry Herman is listed in the 1874 Atlas. "Connie" Herman who also had an icehouse, the Clinks, and the Krotzers were all stock dealers. Later in the 1920s and 1930s, Joe DeMarco was a stock dealer and his father-in-law Franz Chairelli was a butcher. It has been told that the river ran "red" with the blood from the slaughterhouses. Ernest L. Kahr advertised the sale of poultry in the 1897 newspaper.

The oil boom of the 1890s and early 1900s created business for the hotels and rooming houses and restaurants, and there were other businesses that served the oil industry. Some of the early machine shops and boiler shops may have also gained business because of the oil boom.

Rook Brothers – rig and power builders – John and Henry Rook

Charles W. Ross – oil and gas wells

H. Rohtert Boiler Compound Shop

Rohtert Water Purifying Solution

J. E. Sperber – The Excelsior Boiler Works

Woodville Machine Works, J. B. Walsh, Proprietor

IN MORE RECENT YEARS

Other business people who have not been mentioned previously who have also shaped the town and township in more recent years are listed.

John G. Biniker Concrete 1930 advertisement

John Asmus Greenhouse/Woodville Greenhouse 1938 film

F. A. Hurrelbrink – Florist	
Pyramid Insurance	
Tower Inn at Busy Corners – E. A. Zilles, Proprietor	1940 advertisement
Albert D. Hicks Floor & Wall Contractor	1941 advertisement
Calvis Garage	
Clark Appliances – Harry W. & Peg Clark	1945-1947 advertisements
Forriter Brothers, Reid and Herbert – Builders	
Dwight's Luncheon Grill	1947 advertisement
Woodville Machine & Tool – the Whitman family	1950 aerial photo
Sammy Madden Used Cars on US 23	
George Hicks Tiling	
F. A. Huston Trucking	1955 advertisement
Jack's Auto Sales on SR 105	1956 advertisement
DuCumInn – Matilda Pirtle's bar	
Hunt Tool Company	
Marcus Asmus – Carpenter - worked for Elmore Lumber Company and now independently	
Paul Bertok – Carpenter – started with Leonard Martin – later Building Contractor	
Alta Bockbrader – Alta's Flowers	
Irene's Restaurant – Irene Culbert	1966-68 advertisements
Abbe Manor – Dorothy Armbruster	
S. E. Johnson Co.	
Producer's Livestock – Lime Road	1960's – 1970's
Miller Boat Works – Donald Miller	
Charles Zesing Water & Oil Well Drilling	
Stranges Drilling Company	1969 advertisement
Woodville Garage Doors – Herbert Wegman	1955 advertisement
Home Kitchen	1978 advertisement
Dick's Radio & TV – Dick Deitemyer	
Lowell Hartman Tiles & Flooring	
Judy Karchner's Pet Grooming Service	
Pet Express – Connie Jacobs	
Emil J. Konesky Auction Services	
Gordon Lumber Company Concrete Plant	

We know that we may have missed businesses and other information about the past. Today there are "cottage" businesses, as well as professionals and others who work from their homes and are not included.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The book has been prepared based on the sharing of information from many different people and from many different sources. It has been written to share memories and in an attempt to preserve local history and events that have shaped Woodville and Woodville Township.

The Woodville Historical Society wishes to thank all who patiently answered questions and helped to gather information for this book. Special thanks go to Lori Hepler, Bob Heineman, Mary Asmus, Sandra Kruse, Gilbert Gonzalez, Bob Rieman, and David Hummel for their efforts. We also thank the Engler Printing Company of Fremont for their invaluable aid in providing the necessary expertise for the completion of the project. We hope that readers will find this book interesting, even informative, and a kind of historical treasure to keep for future enjoyment.

Kermit Hoesman, President
Mary Lou Busdiecker, Leader of Book Project

1893 – Woodville during the Oil Boom (pictures taken from the top of oil derrick)

Top Photo:

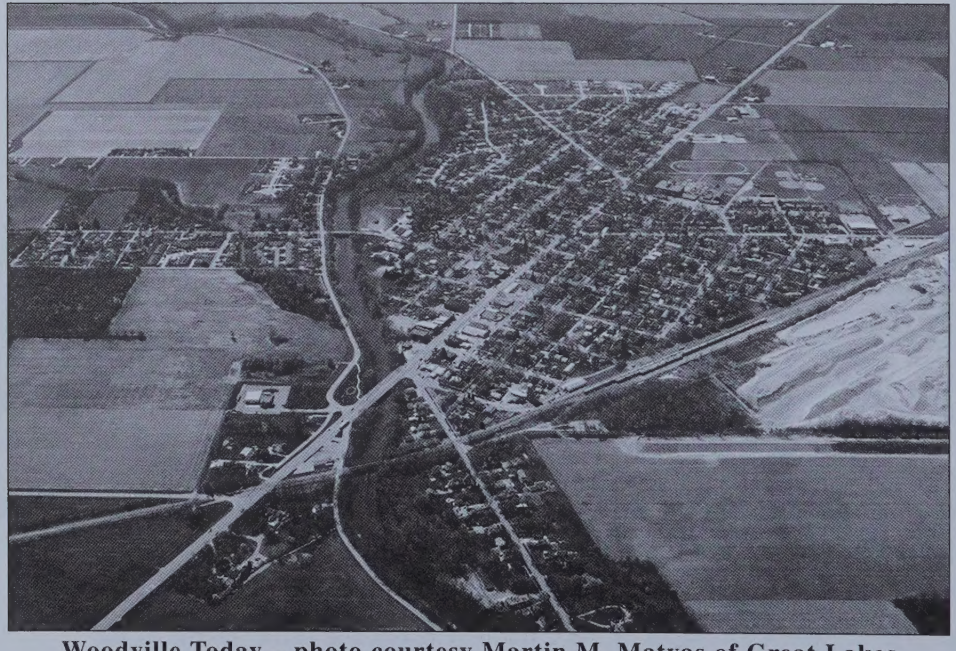
- German Methodist Church located in the triangle where motel sits today
- Oil piping and tanks and equipment in foreground of photo

Bottom Photo:

- Woodville High School – located in Veterans Memorial Park – faced Walnut Street
- At extreme left: white spire of the Catholic Church and brick steeple of the Lutheran Church
- At right side: the railroad depot and an oil derrick

Top Photo taken about 1948:

- Hartman addition is just starting to develop
- Elementary Building has not been built



Woodville Today – photo courtesy Martin M. Matyas of Great Lakes Aerocam, 128 E. Main Street, Woodville.

- Hartman addition, Grandview Allotment, Woodpointe
- Fire Station
- Quarries closer to town